

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Nonsense!
But how pleasant
to know Mr Lear,
writes Bernard Levin

Spire desire
The appeal of
the English
parish church
Lost wilderness
Disappearing
lifestyle of
the Laplanders
Two through
Rex Bellamy on
the men's semi-finals
at Wimbledon

Portfolio

There were two winners of yesterday's Times Portfolio competition. Mr P C Oakley of Hampton and Mr R Elvidge of Nottingham, each receive £1,000. Portfolio list page 18; how to play, information service, back page.

Tomorrow £22,000 can be won - £20,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily.

Education agreement crumbles

The Burnham Committee faces collapse after local authorities tore up a gentlemen's agreement with the Department of Education on teachers' pay negotiations.

The Opposition has demanded the resignation of Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

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Man held

A man was being questioned by police in West Yorkshire last night in connection with the alleged rape of a woman in Barnsley and the alleged kidnapping, snatching and threatening rape of a woman in Blackpool this week.

Dental costs

The Public Accounts Committee has criticized the Department of Health and Social Security over unsatisfactory dental treatment costing £170 million a year.

Hostage ordeal

The extent of the US hijack hostages' ordeal in Beirut became clearer as they described brutality, psychological torture, fear and bizarre details of their captivity.

Geneva wait

Russia is not expected to make any concessions at the arms talks in Geneva before Mr Gorbachev goes there in November to meet President Reagan.

Hawke rethinks

Mr Bob Hawke's Australian Government has revised its proposals for taxation reform after almost universal opposition to its original scheme.

Delhi deadlock

Talks between India and Pakistan in Delhi reached agreement on a number of minor issues but failed to make the hoped-for breakthrough on trade.

No Guardian

Industrial action by the National Graphical Association led to no London edition of The Guardian being printed today for the fourth successive day.

Familiar final

Martina Navratilova, the champion, will play Chris Lloyd in their fifth women's singles final at Wimbledon tomorrow.

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Letters: On engineers, from Dr K. A. G. Miller, Feng; Terrorism, from Mrs J. Becker

Leading articles: East-West summit; Opec; teachers' pay

Features, pages 10-12

Hayek's plan to privatize money; Assad in from the cold; very small crisis in Portugal

Spectrum: VC - the diminishing band of heroes. Friday Page: remembering Claud Cockburn

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Motoring

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Mr Oleg Polunin. Mr E. Owen Jennings.

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Cash control by Whitehall proposed in rates reform

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A significant change in government funding of local councils, with Whitehall having a direct say in how hundreds of millions of pounds are spent by town halls in the worst-off areas of Britain, is being considered by ministers as part of the rates shake-up.

Under the proposed scheme, which is understood to have the backing of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, local authorities would receive a minimum central government grant calculated according to basic local criteria, such as population size and school numbers.

But, more important, there would not, as at present, be an additional automatic "needs" payment to many councils to take account of local difficulties such as bad housing.

Instead councils in the worst off regions, such as Lambeth and Hackney in London and Liverpool would only receive extra cash to tackle deprivation after agreeing in broad outline with Whitehall how the money was to be spent.

The proposed new "partnership" is being likened to a huge re-amping of the existing urban aid programme, which this year will pump £338 million of government cash into approved projects in deprived areas of London, Liverpool, Newcastle upon Tyne, Manchester and Birmingham.

Although the plan will lead to accusations that local government powers would be further eroded, its supporters say it would permit the scrapping of targets, grant assessments and penalties used to control the growth of council spending.

It is also argued that central funds could be directed more effectively on areas of greatest need in the inner cities.

With Mrs Thatcher pledged to abolish domestic rates, a residents' tax is seen as the favourite alternative. Although a uniform charge, to be set locally, is the preferred option, a three-tier system, based on personal income, could be adopted.

Councils would retain control over spending the Government's basic grant and revenue raised locally.

A residents' tax would favour the poor but special measures might be needed to prevent the rich, such as couples living in large country mansions, gaining from the difference between a big rates bill and relatively small residents' charge.

Non-domestic rates, paid by businesses, are likely to remain but instead of the level being set by local councils it would be fixed annually by the Government and applied throughout the country.

Ministers are also anxious to make people more aware that part of the central government taxes they pay help to finance local authorities. This year £8.5 billion, 48 per cent of council spending, was provided through the rate support grant.

One idea being floated is to link the size of the government grant given to town halls to a proportion of a national tax. For example, 3 per cent of value added tax revenue.

The package of proposals, which is being finalized by ministers and a senior team of Civil Servants seconded from various Whitehall departments, is likely to go to Cabinet in the early autumn.

If approved the rates reform blueprint will be outlined at the Conservative Party conference in October.

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Ruth Lawrence and her father, Mr Harry Lawrence outside the Examination Schools in Oxford yesterday where she heard that she had gained a first-class degree.

Degree for 13-year-old at Oxford

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Ruth Lawrence aged 13, the mathematics prodigy from Huddersfield who won a scholarship to St Hugh's College, Oxford when she was 10 has been awarded a first class degree. It took her two years, instead of the usual three, and her results were posted yesterday at the Examination Schools in Oxford.

She also learnt that she had won a £100 prize and was one of two mathematics students specially commended.

She will have to wait another year before she can collect her degree, to satisfy the university's requirement of three years' residence in Oxford.

The girl sat eight examination papers in four days last month and received higher marks than any of the other 191 candidates. She said after hearing the news of her first: "I am just very pleased. I don't think I am a genius. It comes out of a lot of hard work."

She intends to stay in Oxford for at least another three years to do research.

Mr Harry Lawrence her father, said: "I am very happy that we have done ourselves justice. It is a vindication of what we have done. Ruth is happy and has always been happy."

Dr Mary Luna, vice principal of St Hugh's, who is the girl's tutor, said: "It was a staggering performance. Ruth is an exceptional child and it takes all my time to keep up with her."

Ruth Lawrence passed O-level mathematics at nine and gained a grade A at A-level a year later.

Mr Jon Shields, director of

Jobless fall 'best for five years'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Unemployment fell by an unexpected amount last month, described by the Secretary of State for Employment, Mr Tom King, as the best for more than five years.

The total, including school leavers entitled to claim benefit, was down 62,365 to 3,178,582, the lowest level since August last year. The figure does not include 104,116 non-claimant school leavers, who do not enter the count until they become entitled to benefit in September.

However, last month's total for non-claimant school leavers was nearly 20,000 lower than June last year.

The adult unemployment total, seasonally adjusted, fell by 7,400 to 3,169,000, or 13.1 per cent of the workforce. This was the biggest monthly fall since August 1979, and only the third drop since the beginning of 1980. The adult total is the best guide to underlying trends.

Department of Employment officials said that the underlying trend was still upwards, despite the June fall, and that unemployment was rising by 10,000 to 15,000 a month.

Mr King was more optimistic, both about the unemployment fall and news of a 7,700 rise in seasonally adjusted vacancies to 174,800, the highest since March 1980.

"These are only one month's figures and it is too soon to draw any conclusions about the future trend but this is clearly good news and I welcome it", he said.

Mr Jon Shields, director of

Remand for eight on terror charges

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Four men, including the man charged with the Brighton bombing, and four women were yesterday remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Lambeth, south London, accused of offences under the Prevention of Terrorism or Explosives Substances Acts.

Seven of the accused appeared at the court on Monday. They were joined yesterday by Mrs Frances Boyle, aged 58, who was brought down from Glasgow, and is charged under the Prevention of Terrorism Act with failing to give information to the police.

Strict security was enforced in and around the court. The accused were brought to Lambeth in heavily guarded convoys.

Patrick Joseph Magee, aged 34, is charged with the bomb attack at the Grand Hotel, Brighton, five counts of murder relating to the victims of the bomb attack, an explosives charge dating back to 1979, and conspiracy to cause explosions this year.

The others charged with the conspiracy between January 1 and June 22 are Gerald Patrick McDonnell, aged 34; Peter John Joseph Sherry, aged 30; Martina Elizabeth Anderson, aged 26; and Donald Dominic Craig, aged 27. Una Agnes Cecilia Lowney, aged 21, is charged with failing to give information to the police on terrorism.

The hearing was presided over by Sir Bryan Roberts as stipendiary magistrate. All eight were remanded to appear again on the morning of July 11.

At the end of the hearing Sir Bryan warned press and television about their coverage of the proceedings. They should make sure they complied with the law relating to contempt and defamation of character and should do nothing to prejudice a fair trial, he said.

A spokesman for the Director of Public Prosecutions said yesterday that a report by The London Standard on Wednesday about security arrangements at the court would be reported to the Attorney General.

8 nations overcome famine

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

Eight African countries - Burundi, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe - are no longer suffering from drought and famine, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says in its latest African food crisis report issued here today.

In these countries, the drought has broken, weather conditions are favourable for the coming harvest, and food supplies are back to normal.

Another 13 countries are still experiencing famine, and the FAO calls for urgent efforts to overcome logistical problems in moving famine relief food to Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger and Sudan. Port congestion and lack of internal transport facilities are a large part of these problems.

In Ethiopia, the FAO says, there is a backlog of more than 200,000 tons of cereals at Red Sea ports of Assab and Massawa, because many roads in the interior are impassable and there is a shortage of vehicles.

Brecon result likely to be close

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

With a few hours remaining before the close of polls, party officials last night predicted an extremely high turnout in the Brecon and Radnor by-election.

After a campaign which has caused intense local interest, it was being estimated that more than 80 per cent of the constituency's 48,000 electors would have voted.

The indications from both the Labour and Alliance camps was that the result would be far closer than recent opinion polls have been suggesting.

Thatcher 'value to Labour'

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock said last night that he hoped the Conservative Party would not ditch Mrs Margaret Thatcher in the run up to the next election, because she would make the difference between Labour winning nicely and winning well (our Political Correspondent writes).

He told journalists at Westminster: "She's worth about 20 more seats to us in a general election".

Speaking with confidence of a Labour victory in today's Brecon and Radnor by-election result, he said that there had been a total collapse of the Conservative vote, partly because the Tory's greatest strength, Mrs Thatcher, had become their greatest weakness. "With a vengeance", because people were blaming her for their feeling of ill-being.

"When today she talked in the Commons of Bills to protect endangered species, I said: 'I beg to move, Mr Speaker'. I hope they don't get rid of her," Mr Kinnock said. He also suggested that ministers were having second thoughts on an early decision to televise the Commons, because of sensitivity about Mrs Thatcher's public image.

Government sources had said earlier that there could be no early introduction of television cameras into the chamber of the House, because details would first have to be sorted out by a special select committee of MPs once approval had been secured on the principle of televised proceedings in the autumn.

Mr Kinnock said: "They are very jumpy about everything". Asked directly whether he thought that Mrs Thatcher's image was giving ministers cause for second thoughts about Commons television, he said: "In glorious technicolour I think they are probably very sensitive about that. I think that they have every reason to be so - and I think tomorrow they will have even more reason".

Six ministers, page 2
Linda Christmas, back page

Scargill wins vote on job for life

From Our Labour Editor Sheffield

The National Union of Mineworkers yesterday scrapped its 41-year-old rule book and approved a new constitution which will concentrate power at the centre and guarantees the right of Mr Arthur Scargill to remain president until 2003.

The decision by a majority of 75 per cent at the union's Sheffield rules revision conference, is a decisive step towards the split in the union threatened by the refusal of the Nottinghamshire area, the second biggest in the NUM, to accept the sweeping constitutional changes.

All but one of the 15 Nottinghamshire delegates walked out of the conference after the closed session decision to approve the new 30-point rule book. Nottinghamshire leaders had a mandate from members, approved by 76 per cent in a ballot vote, to reject the rule changes.

Most of the new powers, with which the rule-book has armed the executive and the union's national officials, now seem certain to be confirmed when the closed session continues its examination of proposed amendments to the new constitution in Sheffield today.

The only amendment which in yesterday's 5½ hour session attracted the two-thirds majority now needed to vote down any of the new rules was that creating a new category of associate membership.

By a single vote the proposal, mainly aimed at bringing women's support group into membership of the union, although without voting rights, was voted down. A parallel proposal, however, creating a new class of honorary membership was approved.

Among the changes which survived amendment yesterday was one which puts Mr Scargill completely beyond the reach of the 1984 Trade Union Act requirement for union leaders to submit themselves to re-election every five years. It is now explicitly stated that the president has no casting vote in any capacity and the Act applies.

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PARLIAMENT JULY 4 1985

Talks offer to teachers

Jobless figures

Ulster MPs worried

Teachers' pay: Joseph sticks to policy of more money next year

EDUCATION

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, repeatedly said in the Commons that he was willing and eager to meet those involved in the teachers' dispute. Both sides of Burnham knew he stood ready to meet them. He was very unhappy that this long dispute continued and intensely wanted to see pupils receiving uninterrupted education. However, the Government had wide economic obligations and was not willing to make extra resources available for teachers' pay unless those extra resources would be used to make progress towards the objectives for improving educational standards.

That meant improving promotion prospects and giving better rewards to good quality teachers. He had made clear the Government's willingness to provide extra resources for teachers' pay next year for these purposes. He was replying to Mr Giles Radice, chief Opposition spokesman on education, who accused Sir Keith of being a wreck and called on him to resign for the sake of the children before doing any more damage.

The former Labour Prime Minister, Mr James Callaghan, also commented that while Sir Keith's sincerity was obvious, as he had failed to secure the cooperation of the teachers, should he not consider making way for a successor. Sir Keith Joseph replied that it was all very well for Mr Callaghan to say that but he was not in the country and teachers as a whole accepted the Government's purposes of better education in schools.

I have taken steps (he said) which should enable teachers and employers to get on to negotiations to secure extra public funding on offer for next year.

Replying to the private notice question by Mr Radice about the breakdown of Burnham talks the previous day, Sir Keith Joseph said that the Government was well aware of the Government's position before the meeting. They also knew he stood ready to join in discussions to make the progress which was so urgent and necessary if they were not again to miss the

chance of reforming the pay structure. Mr Radice: Why did Sir Keith instruct his officials to wreck yesterday's Burnham meeting? Why did he use his 15 block votes against the peace proposal supported by 19 out of the 24 elected representatives?

Does he understand that his high-handed behaviour has so enraged the local authorities' organizations that the Burnham Committee is on the point of collapse? The only constructive talks now taking place are outside Burnham between the Labour-led employers and the teachers' representatives, and this is no thanks to him.

He is starving schools of resources, has demoralized teachers and is doing his best to undermine any chance of bringing an end to the turmoil in our schools. Sir Keith Joseph: Those are very, very strong words. He is speaking as if my representatives voted down some substantive offer. It was not like that at all. What was being

discussed is whether joint meetings of teachers and employers should be sought with me, but both sides know and have known for months, that I am very, intensely, willing to see them.

What was opposed by my representatives was the addition of wages that ran totally contrary to what I have repeated time and time again to be the Government's objectives and decisions. Mr Harry Greenwood (Ealing, North, C): The time has come for the Government to accept that it is no longer capable of handling the

affairs of the great teaching profession. Sir Keith Joseph: I am willing to be convinced that there is a better method of arranging these affairs than Burnham, but even if the Government were convinced, legislation would be needed and there would be bound to be a delay. Mr Kenneth Weir (Ipswich, Lab): The Burnham machinery has been breaking at the joints for years. Would the Secretary of State use his influence to see that the realities of the situation appear in negotiating machinery, in that the government is the paymaster and it should reflect just that.

Sir Keith Joseph: That is precisely what was intended to be reflected by the veto arrangements when the Labour Government was in office. Mr Roy Galley (Halifax, C): No doubt Sir Keith Joseph will totally disregard the extravagant words of Mr Radice who, as they say in Yorkshire, rattled like a can with no nuts inside.

In persuading the unions to negotiate sensibly, will he consider going further as a long-term objective, offering in return for a little more money, a pay review body system, in return for a no-disruption agreement. Sir Keith Joseph: Those are all prospects which, in the right context and circumstances, deserve consideration, but at present the teachers are unwilling to address themselves to the serious offer made by the Government. It is not willing (he added later) to make more money available, except for better promotion prospects and career structure, and more effective teaching in schools.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C): He should write to individual teachers, as Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, did in the recent dispute over prescriptions, so that the teachers themselves know what he is offering, which is very fair. Sir Keith Joseph: I have seriously considered the possibility of doing that although the Government is not the employer.

Mr Mark Carlisle (Warrington, South, C): The only answer is for teachers to put to the test what he has said and to agree to discuss salaries, together with future prospects in teaching. Sir Keith Joseph: I entirely agree.

PM refuses to change policies

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Government hoped to publish the results of its scrutiny of regulations affecting small firms before the Summer recess. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions on the improved unemployment figures.

She was replying to Mr Michael Gyles (North West Surrey, C) who had said that the improving unemployment figures announced, the role of the smaller firm, the new and growing firm, had been very significant, but despite the valiant efforts of the Government to remove many of the obstacles and burdens faced by small firms, a lot of them were still there.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, welcomed the downturn in unemployment small though it was. Does the Prime Minister recall (he went on) that five weeks ago she said the was concerned, mystified and very disappointed that unemployment was still so high?

In view of that feeling, has she any new policies to announce which will ensure that the small firm in unemployment is both accelerated and greatly increased in coming months?

Mrs Thatcher: I am glad he welcomes the small downturn. There was a major new policy announced in the Budget and details were further given this week for the extension of the youth training scheme to two years. It is a matter of great regret the Opposition carp and criticize instead of welcoming it.

Mr Kinnock: It does not change the fact today's fall is rather small and rather shaky. Really we should not have to wait until August when there is so much else the Prime Minister could do. There is certainly plenty of work to do and plenty of people who want to do it.

Why does she not recognize that managers and businessmen are telling her to stop getting rid of the investment allowance, to sponsor new public investment and get interest rates down, if she wants to start a real recovery. Mrs Thatcher: What he is recommending is inflation. But on another occasion he would be

criticising the level of inflation. He really must make up his mind.

Mr Ralph Howell (Norfolk North, C): Only 499,000 of those currently unemployed have taken the trouble to register at the job centre. Will she take urgent steps to reform the unemployment system and statistics so that only those genuinely seeking work figure in the statistics? (Labour protest).

Mrs Thatcher: These unemployment statistics are compiled on exactly the same basis as previous unemployment statistics. (Labour laughter and protest). The last change in the way in which they were compiled was in 1981 for reasons then given. These are compiled on exactly the same basis as previously.

We are very anxious to secure the bringing of jobs to those genuinely seeking work on the unemployment register. Mr Bryan Gould (Dagenham, Lab): Each 1 per cent reduction in the inflation rate since she came to office has been bought at the cost of 750,000 jobs destroyed. However, unless a 3 per cent inflation target now appears to be,

how many more jobs is she prepared to sacrifice to reach that target?

Mrs Thatcher: There is no such trade off (Labour protest) - in the long run if he is seeking to raise inflation to the Labour Party's record of 27 per cent, let him say so now.

Mr David Ashley (Leicestershire North West, C): Mr Kinnock's policy for reducing unemployment is to keep children at school much longer and retire people much earlier without one extra single new job. Does this not show Labour's policies are a farce?

Mrs Thatcher: Their policies always consist of spending more money but not knowing where it would come from. In the document by the then Mr Joel Barnett (former Chief Secretary to the Treasury) *Inside the Treasury* after the last Labour government he said: "The Labour Government of 1974-79 had a financial task rendered impossible by pledges foolishly made without any serious thought as to where the money would come from. You name it, we were pledged to increase it." (Conservative cheers and laughter).

Peers vote to end caning in schools

BILL DELAYED

Further consideration in the House of Lords of the Education (Corporal Punishment) Bill was delayed at report stage abolishing corporal punishment in all educational institutions was carried by a majority of four votes.

The Bill gives the parents of children whose education is directly provided in whole or in part from public funds the right to exempt their children from corporal punishment in the course of their education and enables the Government to fulfil its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights. After the new clause had been carried by 108 votes to 104 Viscount Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, said it was clear that any further consideration of the Bill that day was impossible. The report stage was then adjourned.

Lady David (Lab), who moved the new clause, said there was opposition to the Bill from a small number of Conservative and others. The proposals which would mean some schools retaining corporal punishment and others dispensing with it, were unacceptable in a civilized society. Lord Beloff (C) said it was intended by this new clause to change the Bill into a measure for the abolition of the educational world as unworkable. The proposals which would mean some schools retaining corporal punishment and others dispensing with it, were unacceptable in a civilized society.

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Lord Denning (Lab) said it was 99 to one that the new clause would be carried before the European Court of Human Rights. It would condemn all corporal punishment at school as being degrading.

Do not (he went on) let us wait for them to tell us what to do. Let us take it into our own hands and govern ourselves by our own statute.

I ask you to take the straightforward course now and abolish corporal punishment in schools. In that way we will be conforming to the decisions of the European Court. The Government's position is that it will not do so. (SDP) said violent men given the cat or the birch clearly often obtained great sexual satisfaction and looked forward in a horrible way to the sort of punishment they were going to receive. He also said the gratification derived by some people who administered it.

It was astonishing that parents could innocently hand over their children perfectly happily for corporal punishment to be administered, of course not in all cases but in many. This was a way of sexual gratification on the part of the person who administered it.

Lady Cory, for the Government, said its objective was to secure compliance with a judgement of the European Court. The Government was opposed to the injection of broader aims and in particular the enforced abolition of corporal punishment.

The Government preferred to leave the decision concerning the appropriateness of corporal punishment to those closest to the child and with responsibility for his or her well-being - the parents and teachers.

No one was requiring them to use corporal punishment, but enforced abolition implied a lack of trust in them and in their judgement. In the debate even worse ad hominem attacks had been directed at them.

The Government would not change the new clause as a matter of principle.

Demand for early vote on cameras

TELEVISION

A renewed demand for a debate before the summer recess on televising the Commons came from Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, during questions about forthcoming business.

He said this would enable televising to start with the Queen's Speech next session. There was no need to wait until the autumn for a debate. Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, said the question of an experimental period of television required a delicate touch and it would not be prudent to try to get a judgement on enabling the opening of Parliament and the Queen's Speech to be televised.

It would be better for the matter to continue to be discussed in the measured manner as previously. He hoped there could be a Commons decision early in the new session.

Mr Andrew Founds (Warley East, Lab): Will Mr Biffen determine to delay as interminably as he can manage any consideration of televising the House's proceedings because if we do televise the conduct of the House it would cause enormous damage to the performance of MPs and give a bad impression of how MPs conducted themselves in responsible debate.

Mr Biffen said he did not want to enter into the controversy whether the House should be televised.

Hurd defends rerouting of Ulster marches

ULSTER

There was no intention on the Government's part either to transfer or share with others outside Northern Ireland in some scheme for joint authorities in the exercise of executive power in the province, Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said.

He was replying to a debate initiated by the Rev Martin Smyth (Belfast South) who moved an OUP motion calling on the Government to bring its current discussions with the Irish Republic to an early termination.

The Secretary of State moved a Government amendment inviting the promotion of measures which encouraged peace, stability and good relations between the two communities and recognised the contribution which improved relations with the Irish Government could make.

He added that he could not say when the talks would be concluded or if there would be a successful conclusion or not. If they were to be serious they had to be in confidence until concluded.

Mr Andrew Founds said the Official Unionist believed the Northern Ireland Office was simply not trying to move forward in the Province and was busy with the Foreign Office in London. The Secretary of State had added to instability in NI by being insensitive towards loyalist aspirations by curbing protestant marches which had been held in the Province for centuries.

Scottish law survey still awaited

LICENSING LAWS

A Conservative backbench MP sought an assurance from a Home Office minister during Commons questions that the licensing privileges enjoyed by MPs would be enjoyed by the public.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, had told Mr Robert Jones (West Hertfordshire, C) that since a Home Office statement on licensing laws on June 6 four letters had been received from MPs on behalf of constituents and six from the public.

Of the 10 (he said) five supported relaxations in the law on permitted opening hours and five were against any change which extended closing time at public houses.

When Mr Jones then sought assurance that the benefits of the public outside, Mr Mellor said he hoped to have a decision on the licensing laws when the Home Office had the final report of the Scottish survey, the licensing hours in Scotland were more generous.

Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C) said the tourist season emphasized the need to relax the laws. This would benefit tourists, the British wine industry and more generally. Mr Mellor said he hoped the final figures on the Scottish experiment would be available by the autumn.

There is (he said) a strong case for doing this. It is equally right to say that the problems of alcohol abuse are such that any change in licensing laws must be carefully evaluated.

Thatcher says majority support coal policy

COAL INDUSTRY

The majority of people overwhelmingly endorsed the Government's policy on the coal industry, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said. Mr Roger Freeman (Kettering, C) asked if she had studied the National Coal Board's statement consulting investors and the public and the creation of 7,000 new jobs.

Is this not a constructive way to proceed in the industry (he asked) instead of threats of a massive pay claim coming out of Sheffield?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. The policy of this Government has been to make a profitable coal industry by making excellent investment in profitable pits. That is the way to give security of jobs in the future.

Mr Edward Leigh (Gainsborough and Horncastle, C): Will she close the loophole in the Trade Union Act 1984 which allows Mr Arthur Scargill to preserve his life presidency of the NUM simply by dint of depriving himself of his casting vote?

He described Mr Scargill as a petty dictator who acted more like someone in ancient Rome than someone in modern Britain, and called for a statutory-enforced secret postal ballot in the NUM vote, as that was what the militants feared most.

Mrs Thatcher: He makes the point vigorously. I have taken note of it and I hope other people will, too.

Benn's Bill ridiculed

The introduction of Mr Tony Benn's Bill to grant an amnesty to all punished by the courts for offences committed during the miners' strike cast severe doubt on the commitment to the rule of law of those who favoured it. Mr Lesa Brittan, the Home Secretary, said during question time.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C) had asked him: What is the likely effect on the level of crime if the Miners' Amnesty (General Pardon) Bill introduced by Mr Benn were to be passed, knowing that its burden is to entitle people to commit murder provided that it is in pursuit of objectives acceptable to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party?

Mr Brittan: Passage of the Bill would totally undermine the rule of law.

Wednesday: Transport Bill, Committee, second day. Thursday: Education (Corporal Punishment) Bill, third reading. Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol etc) Bill, second reading and remaining stages. Friday: Surrogacy Arrangements Bill, third reading. Debate on modernising industry.

Police car accidents

ROAD SAFETY

Police drivers were trained to a high standard and it was a basic tenet of training that no emergency was so urgent as to justify an accident. Mr Andrew Founds, Minister of State, Home Office, said in the Commons when questioned about the number of deaths and serious accidents resulting from police car accidents.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Denton and Reddish, Lab) said there was some conflict about the number of accidents occurring and it pointed to 20 or 30 deaths last year. Should there not be an inquiry into the processes to see if the police always enforced the rules during chase and whether other measures could be taken, like encouraging the public to secure their cars?

Mr Shaw said that at present the central statistics covered all accidents - injury, death or slight accident - and the total in 1983 was

17,000 from the very slightest upwards.

He had asked that in future they should maintain central records of accidents involving serious injury or death. The Metropolitan Police figure for 1984 was zero.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C) said in his constituency last year a police car was going to a fire in a warehouse. It was not fair to leave decisions only to the drivers of police vehicles and fire engines because they tended to do what they felt like doing.

Should not the police and fire brigades adopt the view that drinks, break-ins and warehouses fires were not as important as innocent people's lives?

Mr Shaw: He is straying a little far in assuming the police know exactly when they are pursuing or the fire brigades know the nature of the incident to which they are going. It is our duty and their duty (he said) to see they do not hazard lives.

Court decision next year

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Government is still considering whether it intends to renew in January 1986 the right of individual citizens to petition the European Court of Human Rights. Mr Lesa Brittan, Home Secretary, told the Commons a decision would be taken before January 1986.

Mr Alfred Dubs, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, does he fully accept the last decision of the European Court of Human Rights regarding sexual discrimination in our immigration rules? When does he propose to respond to that decision by the court?

Mr Brittan: I made clear at the time of the decision that we would take whatever steps necessary to ensure we complied with the convention as interpreted by the court. I hope to announce shortly our plans for doing so.

issues are considered by foreign judges.

Mr Brittan: The jurisprudence of the court has extended more broadly and widely than might have been anticipated 20 years ago. We are bound by the convention. The question of the right of individual petition has to be decided from time to time and a decision will be taken before January 1986.

Mr Alfred Dubs, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs, does he fully accept the last decision of the European Court of Human Rights regarding sexual discrimination in our immigration rules? When does he propose to respond to that decision by the court?

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Lambeg drums tightened for the Ulster tribal march

From Tim Jones Belfast

Across Ulster, the skins of the mighty Lambeg drums are being tightened ready to beat out again the uncompromising message of the Protestant ascendancy. This is the marching season in Northern Ireland. It will culminate in a blaze of Orange with the defiant cries of "no surrender" on July 12.

People will dance on pavements painted red, white and blue as they burn effigies of the traitor Lundy and celebrate the Battle of the Boyne 300 years ago.

But 40 per cent of the population, the Roman Catholics, will try to ignore the incessant flute and drum tribal refrains. A tiny minority of them, the hard men of the republican cause, might attempt to stage a spectacular act of violence.

Three days after the twelfth as a final demonstration of the deep divides within Northern Ireland, the republicans will stage their own parades to commemorate the anniversary of internment and make clear their hatred of the link with Britain.

All leave for the police and security forces will be cancelled, and once again the streets of a British city, Belfast, will witness the sight of high-velocity rifles poking out of portholes of patrolling armoured vehicles.

Long before the twelfth, the two communities have marked out their own territories up to the "peace-line" - the wall that separates the ultra "loyalist" Camps in the Shankill Road area from the rest of republican West Belfast.

Already a series of mini twelfth of July parades have been held where bowler-hatted Orangemen with their lodge sashes and ceremonial swords march behind swaggering bands, Union flags and banners



The Rev Ian Paisley leading a march through Portadown where Orangemen gathered yesterday to protest against the re-routing of their march on Sunday.

Hurd's equality pledge to Catholics

A pledge that the Government would be looking at measures to promote equality of opportunity has been made by Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, after a report which shows that Roman Catholics are worse off than Protestants.

The report, compiled by the Department of Finance and personnel's policy planning and that inevitably show a triumphant King William of Orange mounted on a white charger after his victory in 1690.

In some of those parades, loyalists have fought pitched battles with the police who have prevented them from marching into Catholic areas. Only in Ulster could people fight their own police force and

research unit, shows that more Catholics are out of work, have fewer educational qualifications and have poorer jobs than Protestants.

They also have smaller homes, larger families and fewer luxury items than the majority population. Unemployment among Catholics was at 28 per cent while the figure for Protestants was 13 per cent.

The Army to demonstrate that they are more British than the British.

On the Shankill Road, elaborate Orange street arches have been constructed and some carry the legend: "We will never surrender the blue skies of Ulster for the grey mists of an Irish Republic."

In the rough and ready public houses that remain open all day, portraits of the Royal Family are mounted beneath those of King William. Some barmen and customers have their names tattooed on their arms and the letters UVE - the illegal Ulster Volunteer Force terrorist group - marked on the back of their fingers.

Tiny shops are doing brisk business selling T-shirts that carry slogans such as: "I'm

proud to be a Pro, or "Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right".

Because of the present Anglo-Irish talks between London and Dublin and the suspicion that representations from the Irish Government have been successful in having the Orange marches banned from sensitive Catholic areas, the loyalists are becoming increasingly belligerent. Their politicians are talking of Ulster being on the brink of civil war if they are pushed too far by the security forces.

The hostility towards Dublin in some quarters indicates the responsibility any British government would have to face if a decision were ever taken to withdraw the Army from the province.

More worrying for the Protestants is an indication that they might one day be outnumbered. A recent survey for the Fair Employment Agency estimates that there could be as many as 41 per cent Roman Catholics in the province, a far higher figure than previous estimates. The survey also found that 46.5 per cent of children under the age of 15 are Catholics.

The Rev Martin Smyth, Official Unionist Party MP for Belfast South and head of the Orange Order, says: "This twelfth declares again that Ulster at large prefers the beat of the Lamlash. They spell out the no surrender spirit of Ulster Protestantism."

Those sentiments are not shared in republican West Belfast where there are no Union flags but the banned Irish tricolour flutters in the air. There, the T-shirts bear the slogan: "Up the IRA", and the colour is green.

It seems that no exaltations from level-headed politicians can curb the emotions or dilute the tribal mood of Northern Ireland. It could be a long hot summer.

£250m in RAF spares 'a waste'

By Richard Evans Lobby Reporter

Spare parts for RAF planes worth at least £250 million, purchased by the Ministry of Defence for private contractors, are unlikely ever to be used, a National Audit Office report has disclosed.

Other stock held by contractors who repair defence aircraft may be sufficient to last for 30 years.

The precise amount of wastage and inefficiency is impossible to assess because the ministry does not know the value of spares held by contractors or how much contractors are paid to carry out the work. The spares are estimated to be worth £500 million.

The report comes after an investigation into a 30-year-old system whereby 25 contractors service and repair many of the RAF planes on the ministry's behalf.

To avoid delays, necessary spares, there are 490,000 line items are bought in advance by the ministry and stored at the contractors' 40 factory sites. It is known as the Contractor Repair Supply Procedure (CRSP).

In the report, Sir Gordon Downey, Comptroller and Auditor General, says the ministry has failed to carry out an up-to-date and comprehensive assessment of its benefits and costs and therefore cannot prove that the system's aims of minimizing repair costs and turnaround times, are being achieved.

Although the ministry became aware in 1976 that the management of CRSP schemes had major weaknesses it was unable to assess if the system was worth continuing.

MPs call for steel closures moratorium

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A moratorium on closures in the state-owned steel industry, including those of the Ravenscraig strip mill in Scotland and the Tinsley Park engineering steel plant in Sheffield, has been called for by the Commons trade and industry select committee.

A year ago the committee unanimously urged the Government not to close one of the British Steel Corporation's three strip mills. This year it has broadened its appeal to cover BSC's entire steel-making operations.

While accepting that some closures already announced remained inevitable in the depressed engineering steels sector, the committee's report, the unanimous view of the seven Conservative and four Labour MPs, says that the BSC should retain as many options as possible.

"The steady improvement in the output of UK manufacturing industries, if sustained, is likely to result in an increase in the demand for engineering steels in the home market and this will be accentuated if the competitiveness of the steel-using industries can be further improved."

A Commons dispute seems assured if the Government decides to approve new cuts in strip mill capacity, either to accelerate BSC's move towards greater profitability and accentuate its attractiveness as a privatization candidate, or to appease renewed calls for the European Economic Community for more steel industry contraction.

The committee's report calls for an immediate statement in the Commons "setting out both what has been done already and what the Government intends to do". Failing that, it says, the committee members intend to raise the matter on the floor of the House during the debate on the increase in BSC's borrowing powers.

Mr Kenneth Warren, Conservative MP for Hastings and Rye and the committee chairman, said yesterday that BSC workers had "sweated blood" to bring down manning levels and compete with the rest of the world and the corporation was now well placed to take on anyone in Europe. "The future of the industry is now formally in the Government's court," he said.

The report was a commercial not a political judgement, he added, and it was up to the Government to make the latter.

The jury in the £10 million cannabis smuggling case at Chelmsford Crown Court spent last night in a local hotel and will resume consideration of its verdict today.

The prosecution alleged that a drugs ring smuggled more than four tonnes of the drug into the small port of North Farnham, in Essex, on board a schooner.

Refer to K part dis

From Barr

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader, urged by the party to commit the party to a referendum on a nuclear disarmament. A strongly critical statement by the leader, issued by the Electoral Commission and ending a bilateral delegate between the TUC on the one hand and on the other.

The policy of nuclear weapons, a member of the party, said, "I accept that, whether completely or not, our National Party have shown a willingness to support continued membership of the union."

The union rejected that the two big equally obvious demands of a multi-party system of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Party, which has not been its traditional political

Protect of cha gifts u

By Our Hon

Legal action is being taken by the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Party, which says it can trace 90 per cent of public charity, without

law.

The union rejected that the two big equally obvious demands of a multi-party system of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Party, which has not been its traditional political

An effective way to permit the union to trace 90 per cent of public charity, without law.

As a family, charities should be listed in payments in their annual accounts and not be able to be used just to "cover the books".

Other remedies by the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Party, which has not been its traditional political

by the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Party, which has not been its traditional political

MPs worried
Peers vote
to end
caning in
schools
BILL DELAYED

Further consideration of the Bill (Education) Bill was postponed after a new clause moved to amend the Bill was rejected. The clause, which would have abolished corporal punishment in all educational institutions, was carried by a majority of 100 votes.

The Bill gives the parents of children whose education is directed by a local authority the right to demand that the child be educated at home. The clause would also give the parents the right to demand that the child be educated at a school of their choice.

After the new clause was rejected, the Bill was carried by 100 votes to 104. The Bill was then passed by the House of Commons.

Lord Balfour (Lab), who moved the new clause, said there was opposition to the Bill from all sides of the House. He said the Bill was a measure for the abolition of corporal punishment. The Bill would give the parents the right to demand that the child be educated at home or at a school of their choice.

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Referendum call to Kinnock over party policy on disarmament

From Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter, Blackpool

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, urged by right wingers to commit the party to a national referendum on its "electorally disastrous" policy of "unilateral nuclear disarmament".

A strongly critical statement issued by the leadership of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union and endorsed by its biennial delegate conference, said that a gap had grown between the TUC and the party on the one hand and the people on the other.

The policy of abandoning nuclear weapons while retaining a member of Nato was unrealistic and inconsistent, the statement said. "We should either accept them in full or opt out completely. The British people understand well enough what our Nato commitment entails and successive opinion polls have shown their overwhelming support for our continued membership."

The union rejected the idea that the two big powers are equally obnoxious. "The US is a multi-party democracy with a system of open government. The Soviet Union is an illiberal and oppressive regime, it has imprisoned its people and imprisoned political opponents and it dominates satellite nations by its military might."

In a separate development, the electicians' leader, made an attempt to heal the rift between his union and the left-wing leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers.

But Mr Hammond, made it clear that Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, would have to make the first move.

Speaking to journalists, he urged Mr Scargill to forget their political differences and unite to fight the Government's economic policies.

Mr Hammond, who campaigned against the pit strike, said: "Together we might have a chance in influencing the Government. But splintered as we are, there is no chance."

The electicians' general secretary, who is chairman of the TUC's Fuel and power committee, added: "If we are to have an effective policy on energy then we really have to get ourselves together."

The miners' union would be "very wise" to cultivate other unions, Mr Hammond said. "Second hand" reports from the pitmen's union led Hammond to believe that miners' leaders would like to restore relationships.

Protection of charity gifts urged

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Legal action against rogue fund-raisers is urged in the magazine *Voluntary Action*. It says they can cream off up to 80 per cent of public donations to charity without breaking the law.

Current safeguards are unable to counter a charity swindle which each year adds up to millions of pounds. The magazine calls for legislation forcing all professional fund-raising companies to hand over every penny collected to the charity which first commissioned them.

An effective measure would be to permit the collection only of donations made out by crossed cheque to the charity itself. "This would at least protect the inexperienced from being exploited," the magazine suggests.

As a further safeguard charities should be required to list all payments to fund-raisers in their annual reports. This would not prevent conspiracies but it would just make them easier to detect.

Other remedies are dismissed by *Voluntary Action* as either impractical or political non-starters.

Voluntary Action is published by Longman on behalf of the National Council for Voluntary Organizations.



The Princess of Wales, who is visiting the Western Isles of Scotland with the Prince of Wales, arrived yesterday at North Uist in the Outer Hebrides.

At Bayhead they were welcomed by a new pipe tune entitled *The Prince and Princess of Wales's Welcome to North Uist* composed for the occasion by piper Donald Joseph MacDonald.

After touring the ceilidh house at the sheltered housing scheme, the Royal couple went on to the new auction mart at Lochmaddy, where Mr David Shaughnessy, the estate factor, ushered the Princess into the weighing machine in the showroom and showed how the weight was displayed above the auctioneer's rostrum.

Salford story 'not unfair'

A newspaper was not obliged to print opposing views in pursuing and publishing a story based on the views of the leader of Salford City Council, the Press Council said yesterday.

It rejected a complaint by Mr C L Davies, of Leacockfield Drive, Worsley, Manchester, that it was unfair of the *Manchester Evening News* to report Labour allegations about social deprivation in Salford without giving the opposition, or the Conservative opposition, or his own letter expressing them.

The day after a city council meeting, the newspaper printed a story saying teachers in Salford's poverty-stricken inner

Moment of truth for French Socialists

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The national executive committee of the Socialist party meets tomorrow in the middle of one of the most serious crises of the party's brief 14-year history. Many believe its survival could be at stake.

The committee will therefore probably seek to paper over the rift which has opened up between the Prime Minister and the party leader and try to make out that all is well.

Since the long-simmering tension between M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, and M Lionel Jospin, the party's First Secretary, first erupted into a public clash three weeks ago, both the party leadership and the Prime Minister's office have done everything to try to play it down.

President Mitterrand himself entered the fray last week. He declared that both M Fabius and M Jospin were right in maintaining their positions, and that both had an important role to play in the run-up to the general election in March.

The hatchet had been buried, we were told, and everyone apparently breathed a sigh of relief. "It's all over," the Prime Minister's office declared. "The boss has spoken, it's finished." But not everyone was so easily fooled.

For the clash between M Jospin and M Fabius is not, as it has sometimes been presented, just a personal quarrel between two political rivals over who should lead the party into the elections, thereby strengthening his standing both within the party and in the country. It is much more a fundamental difference of view



M Fabius (left) and M Jospin: At odds over future role and evolution of the party.

welcoming Socialist Party, but one which affirms its identity and its policies as a socialist force, that we can win in 1986.

M Jospin made it clear he was ready to lay his job on the line in pursuit of his principles. "My mandate as first Secretary is in your hands," he wrote. He wants the committee to show their support tomorrow for his

view of the party's identity, its independent role vis-à-vis the Government, and his own right as first secretary to lead the party into the electoral campaign.

M Mitterrand has already confirmed that right. However, he has also said that M Fabius is the "natural leader of the majority", and as such will

Brokers in Bombay raided by taxmen

Bombay (Reuters) - Trading on the Bombay Stock Exchange came to a halt yesterday when hundreds of tax officials stormed the offices of brokers to find untaxed money.

The raid coincided with a call in Delhi by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, to India's security agents to concentrate on "big fish" involved in corruption.

A Stock exchange spokesman said some brokers' offices were sealed by the authorities. Brokers said the raid could last several days while investigators find untaxed records.

The Press Trust of India said about 1,000 officials took part, causing panic in the 25-storey building in India's commercial centre.

Last week Mr Gandhi launched "Operation Ketu", named after a Hindu demon, to sniff out untaxed cash known as "black money", which an official report said totalled about £23 billion in 1983-84.

Brokers said the raid came after unaccounted money fuelled an unprecedented market boom, pushing up leading share prices by between 25 per cent and 100 per cent since February.

Liberal economic policies announced in the March budget had also helped the boom. Even speculators entered the market to make quick money.

THE NEW MIDI HAS SHOWN COMPETITORS THE VALUE OF BEDFORD'S SPECIALISATION.



Often with the launch of a brand-new commercial vehicle buyers initially stay away in droves.

They're hesitant to take on the new against the well-tried.

Not so with Bedford's new Midi 1-tonner. Because not only is the Midi already out-selling the German and Japanese equivalents, but as a new entry is also challenging long-established British makes.

The Luton-built Midi has been as enthusiastically received by motoring journalists as by buyers.

One writer, who drove four Midi vans out of the 16 model range, accurately predicted in the April issue of *Marketeer*,

"A favourite is just what this new van, the Bedford Midi, will become...It is, absolutely, a little cracker. It is a joy to drive..."

The authoritative *Transport News* concurred that the Midi was "...sturdy, stylish and well-designed..."

As registrations of Midis ably demonstrate, Bedford's position as Britain's biggest commercial vehicle specialists means vehicles better specified to the real needs of operators and buyers alike.

While on top of the Midi's launch success has come increased demand for the Bedford TL truck range.

A recent review of 7½-tonners in *'Transport Engineer'* summed up our

own intentions with, "The widest choice that is in tune with operational needs is Bedford's."

Bedford as part of General Motors Truck & Bus Group, the world's largest specialists, have vast resources to draw upon. Planned are even more upsets for our competitors.

And better vehicles for users.

BEDFORD

Now the driving force.

Bedford Commercial Vehicles, Division of General Motors Overseas Commercial Vehicle Corporation. P.O. Box 3, LUTON, LU2 0SY.

Mystery of missing Muzorewa grows

Harare — As the time for the 300,000 voters to cast their ballot on the last day of the Zimbabwean election drew near, the whereabouts of Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Prime Minister and leader of the United African People's Congress (UAPC), had become a mystery. The bishop had been seen in Harare on Monday and was still in the city on Tuesday. But he had not been seen since then. Officials of the UAPC said the bishop was on his way to the United Methodist Church in Harare on Tuesday. The bishop's disappearance has caused a great deal of speculation. Some say he is in the city, while others say he has fled. The bishop's disappearance has caused a great deal of speculation. Some say he is in the city, while others say he has fled. The bishop's disappearance has caused a great deal of speculation. Some say he is in the city, while others say he has fled.

Ex-politician robbery charge

Frankfurt — A former leading German politician, Manfred Grottel, was charged with armed robbery on Tuesday. Grottel, 52, was accused of robbing a shop in the town of Hanau. He was charged with the robbery of a shop in the town of Hanau. He was charged with the robbery of a shop in the town of Hanau. He was charged with the robbery of a shop in the town of Hanau.

British aid for Mozambique

Maputo — The British government has announced that it will give Mozambique £10 million in aid. The aid is to be used for a variety of purposes, including the reconstruction of the country. The aid is to be used for a variety of purposes, including the reconstruction of the country. The aid is to be used for a variety of purposes, including the reconstruction of the country.

Treholt appeal

Oslo — The Norwegian government has announced that it will appeal the conviction of Treholt. Treholt was convicted of a crime in 1981. The Norwegian government has announced that it will appeal the conviction of Treholt. Treholt was convicted of a crime in 1981. The Norwegian government has announced that it will appeal the conviction of Treholt.

Bhopal arrests

Bhopal — The Indian government has announced that it will arrest several people in Bhopal. The arrests are part of an investigation into the Bhopal gas tragedy. The Indian government has announced that it will arrest several people in Bhopal. The arrests are part of an investigation into the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Theologian dies

Geneva — A Swiss theologian has died. The theologian was a prominent figure in the Swiss church. The theologian was a prominent figure in the Swiss church. The theologian was a prominent figure in the Swiss church.

Painful cut

Prague — The Czech government has announced that it will cut the wages of its workers. The cut is part of a series of measures to reduce inflation. The Czech government has announced that it will cut the wages of its workers. The cut is part of a series of measures to reduce inflation.

Much married

Windsor — A large number of people have been married in Windsor. The weddings were held in a grand ceremony. A large number of people have been married in Windsor. The weddings were held in a grand ceremony.

Rogue's return

London — A man who has been described as a "rogue" has returned to London. The man has been in the news for a long time. A man who has been described as a "rogue" has returned to London. The man has been in the news for a long time.

Gorbachov concessions on arms unlikely before Reagan summit

From Richard Owen
Moscow

The Kremlin hopes that its new foreign policy team will outclass an increasingly "lame duck" Reagan Administration when Mr Gorbachov and Mr Reagan meet in November for the first superpower summit in six years, observers here believe. But it is not clear whether the Gorbachov leadership is prepared to make concessions at the Geneva arms talks to ensure a successful summit.

Diplomats say it appears unlikely that Mr Gorbachov will back down from entrenched Soviet opposition to American Star Wars research or agree to a compromise formula under which Star Wars and anti-ballistic missile systems would be examined in a separate forum.

The whole point about Geneva is that, on Russian insistence, space weapons are firmly linked to strategic and medium-range missiles, one arms control expert said. This would leave Mr Gorbachov with the task of persuading world opinion at the summit, also in Geneva, that Mr Reagan is responsible for the deadlock.

Gorbachov has agreed to a summit after years of acrimony to prove that Russia is in favour of dialogue, one diplomat said.

The Kremlin is aware that the United States will soon be

Mr Gorbachov continued to dominate Soviet foreign affairs yesterday by holding talks with Mrs Milka Planinc, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, the first foreign leader in Moscow since this week's dramatic Kremlin shake-up.

Neither President Gromyko nor Mr Shevardnadze took part. Instead Mrs Planinc met Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, and Mr Gorbachov.

embroiled in pre-election manoeuvring with an eye to the end of Mr Reagan's second term. Mr Gorbachov, by contrast, is young and recently installed. He is flanked by President Gromyko, a formidable adviser, and by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the 57-year-old Foreign Minister.

Having recovered from their shock at his appointment, Western embassies believe he will soon prove "silver-tongued as well as silver-haired", as one diplomat put it, or, in the words of another informed observer, "a sharp dresser with a sharp mind".

Mr Shevardnadze's first test will come at a meeting of foreign ministers from east and west in Helsinki at the end of the month.

Announcing the summit, Mr Vladimir Lomeiko, the government spokesman, put forward a shopping list of arms control

proposals on which Moscow believes there is room for agreement.

These included "non-first use" of nuclear weapons, a moratorium on European deployment of medium-range missiles and a ban on anti-satellite weapons. Soviet suggestions for the summit are dominated by arms control, although regional trouble spots and commercial and cultural links also.

Informal sources say that Mr Gorbachov avoided commitment to a summit until having consolidated his power, which he did dramatically this week by removing Mr Grigory Romanov from the Politburo, easing Mr Gromyko out of the Foreign Ministry and installing instead the little-known Mr Shevardnadze in a piece of political theatre which left speculators open-mouthed.

Pravda yesterday carried the summit announcement on its front page, with a message on American Independence Day to Mr Reagan calling for stable and constructive relations. Mr Arthur Hartman, the US Ambassador, appeared on Soviet television last night with a similar message of hope.

Soviet officials have displayed anger with the Reagan Administration for leaking the summit announcement in advance.

Leading article, page 13

Blaze threat to homes



A California householder watches apprehensively as a forest fire approaches his home in the small town of Ojai. Fires burning in a 100°F heatwave have devastated huge areas of California and there were fears last night that they might spread

20 miles to the Santa Barbara area near where President Reagan has his West Coast home. There is concern in California that some of the fires this summer, described as the worst for 30 years, have been started deliberately.

Japan sees hope for Gulf peace

From David Watts
Tokyo

Japan believes that Iran is now more ready to agree to a ceasefire in the Gulf war than it was six months ago.

At meetings this week with Japanese leaders, Mr Ali-Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, agreed to accept all three pre-cessfire conditions proposed by Japan at the United Nations General Assembly last year: an end to attacks on civilians and on shipping in the Gulf and a ban on chemical weapons.

When the conditions were first proposed Iran had "found it difficult to accept them".

But Iranian conditions for ending the war remain unchanged, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, despite the fact that Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani referred only to the need to bring those responsible for it to justice without referring to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq by name.

Japan and Iran have agreed to establish regular ministerial contacts.

There still appears to be disagreement on the future of the Bandar Khomeini petrochemical joint venture. Work on it is again halted because of the war. The Iranian Parliament has refused Japan's request that Iran pay all the additional costs of the project, which is now 85 per cent complete and estimated to have cost more than \$3 billion to date.

The crisis in Sudan

Refugees rush to beat the rains

From Paul Valley, Azerny, West Sudan

Only one child died when the lorries carrying hundreds of famished refugees became fast for 12 hours in the mud surrounding the newly risen wadi.

It could have been worse. The waters fell as quickly as they had risen and the lorries were able to pull one another out of the quagmire and complete the journey before any more of their frail and malnourished cargo perished.

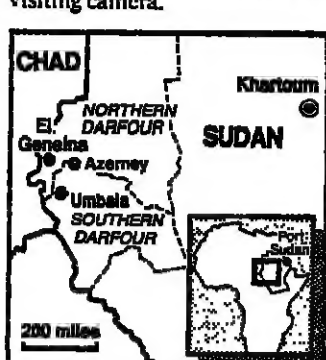
The rains in the west of Sudan are about to begin in earnest; once they do there will be no question of moving people around from one part of the famine-stricken region of Darfour to another. Nor will it be possible to move food to them.

That was why last month it was vital to transport the thousands of refugees from one side of the Wadi Azum to the other, while the rains were still fairly light. There are 53,000 homeless Sudanese registered in the Azerny camp. The aim was to get all but 20,000 of them to Umbala Camp, which is more easily supplied with food, before the kilometre-wide wadi goes into full spate.

Not all the inhabitants of the camp are up to the trip. In the camp's medical centre children were being vetted for the arduous journey.

Kheliam Gasset was 15, and a woman in Sudanese terms. But she looked like a gangly

eight-year-old. She was as thin as a Japanese stick puppet. Her arms flapped round her body uselessly, out of control. She gurgled with lunatic humour - starvation affects the brain, too. But unlike the Ethiopian peasants, who sat in a state of shock, apathetic and transfixed, the people of Azerny seem astonished at their own condition. They parade themselves with a horrified relish before the visiting camera.



The people of Darfour have their own sense of human culpability. "There is grain but they give us none", the women are heard to chant. At Port Sudan there are 220,000 tons of sorghum which have been unloaded but not moved. A further 200,000 tons are stuck in the logistics pipeline. At Azerny the camp authorities have run out of grain entirely. They have enough lentils to last for five more days.

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Pretoria disowns UDF murders

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa yesterday denounced what it called the barbaric murder of four anti-apartheid activists last week, and promised that every effort would be made to bring their killers to justice.

Mr Louis Nel, Minister of Information, said that the Government took the strongest possible exception to callous insinuations that the police or other state agents might have been responsible for the deaths.

In Johannesburg, meanwhile, leaders of the United Democratic Front, the movement to which the four had belonged, called on the United Nations and Amnesty International to investigate the killings.

Whilst comprehensive evidence about the identity of the murderers is not available yet, it is commonly believed in the (black) townships that the police are responsible. Mr Trevor Manuel, the UDF acting national publicity secretary, said.

Other speakers claimed that South Africa was becoming like some South American states, where government opponents were hounded by right-wing assassination squads. The UDF, they said, was the target of "naked, extra-legal terror".

The "toll of terror" so far, according to the UDF, includes 11 activists murdered, 27 who have disappeared, and 20 others allegedly on the "hit lists" of assassination squads.

The circumstances in which they have died or disappeared, the UDF declared, "only allow us to conclude that they have been victims of political assassination or abductions carried out by the regime or its agents".

ried out by the regime or its agents".

Mr Nel implied, on the other hand, that last week's killings should be attributed to "the interminable power struggle between opposing radical organizations", which has claimed several lives in recent months.

The best known of the four killed last week was Mr Matthew Goniwe, a black teacher who led popular resistance to the apartheid authorities in the small Eastern Cape town of Cradock.

He disappeared with three colleagues on Thursday last week on the road to Grahamstown on their way back to Cradock after a meeting in Port Elizabeth.

Their burnt car and charred bodies were found in different places several days later. According to the UDF, only close colleagues had known of their travel plans. Others could have done so only through telephone-tapping, it is claimed.

Three blacks died on Wednesday in riots at a platinum mine in the Western Transvaal, and five more were killed in continuing unrest in black townships on Wednesday and early yesterday, police say.

About 200 of the 4,500 workforce at the mine, Western Platinum, in which Lonrho has a 50.5 per cent stake, were said by management yesterday to be still not at work. Discontent with a wage rise earlier rejected as inadequate was thought to have caused the riot.

Police claimed that the five township deaths were the result of black policemen protecting themselves from mobs

Athens gets a Minister for Aegean

From Mario Modiano
Athens

The Greek Government has decided to create a new Ministry of the Aegean to underline its concern for a region that has long been the focus of serious differences between Greece and Turkey.

A Bill Tabled in Parliament this week assigns to the new ministry the co-ordination of state services in the area and a share of the responsibility of other Ministries for all questions concerning the Aegean.

The move institutionalizes, in a sense, the Greek-Turkish disputes over the continental shelf, territorial waters and air space of the Greek islands, regional jurisdiction within Nato and the presence of military forces in the Greek islands and the Turkish mainland facing them.

The Greek Socialist Government has turned down Turkish offers for a diplomatic dialogue on these issues, making the talks conditional on a Turkish acknowledgement of the existing international legal status of the Aegean and the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus.

The new Aegean ministry is one of 18 Cabinet posts provided for in the draft legislation which introduces structural changes to improve Cabinet efficiency.

This is attempted through the abolition of the Ministries of Merchant Marine, Public Order, Sports and Youth, Social Insurance, Research and Technology, and Public Works, which are to become departments in related ministries.

However, the original intention to trim down the total number of government posts, which stands at 53, seems to have been defeated. The new establishment authorizes 44 posts.

Chiefs fight Easter isle space use

From Florencia Varas
Santiago

A call of "peace for Chile and defence of Easter Island" is being supported by 1,300 environmental and religious organizations representing millions of Chileans.

The movement is attempting to pressure President Pinochet not to sign "any measure that grants foreign countries the right to establish, administer and direct installations susceptible to military use, such as the space shuttle, or capable of making Chile the object of a direct nuclear attack in case of an atomic war".

The campaign against a Nasa proposal to extend the Easter Island airstrip for use as an emergency landing strip for space shuttles has the support of the chiefs council of Rapa Nui, the Easter Island organization of 36 members, each representing an island family, whose mission is to defend Easter Island patrimony, culture and interests.

The council has rejected negotiations between Nasa and the Chilean Government, stating that the people of Rapa Nui are the sole owners of Easter Island lands.

The Easter Island Defence committee wants the Chilean Government to finance the extension and modernization of the airstrip.

The United States Ambassador to Chile, Mr James Theberge, has that the possibility of US use of the airstrip for space shuttle emergencies is slim.

Talks on an agreement to allow the use of the airstrip by the space shuttles began on June 26 between Mr Theberge and the Chilean Foreign Minister, Senior Jaime del Valle.

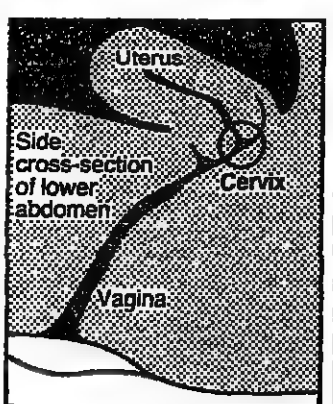
FRIDAY PAGE

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Cervical cancer: an unnecessary killer

Death from cancer of the cervix is preventable and yet more than 10 per cent of the women who develop it die. The number of cases is growing in England and Wales: between 1972 and 1982 there was an increase of 13,500 to nearly 18,000 and the percentage of patients aged under 35 went up from 15 to 27. These figures would have been many times larger were it not that other patients with abnormal, but not malignant, smears were treated before the cancerous stage was reached. The nature of the disease is changing and it now seems probable that there are two distinct types of cervical cancer: the older variety, which has a long latent period and progresses slowly from stage to stage, so that doctors can have as long as 15 years warning; and a new cytologically distinct variety affecting younger women. These smears show a greater proportion of anaplastic (undifferentiated) malignant cells.

The new variant seems more deadly as it has a shorter latent period — less than a year in some cases. It grows faster, spreads more rapidly and is more difficult to treat. Publicity which followed the problems Oxford Health Authority had in recalling patients at risk has already demonstrated that the cytological service, under-manned and under-equipped, is incapable of dealing with the demands of the disease.



Cases now being seen underline the outmoded thinking and the inadequacy of a campaign which concentrates exclusively on the age groups which now have the highest death rate: the over 35s, who also tend to have the slower-growing tumours.

A programme for screening which confines itself to routine smears for the older age groups every five, or even three, years and ignores the threat of the small-cell cervical carcinoma seems to many doctors to display a lack of foresight as damaging as that of the generals who hoped to fight the First World War with Boer War tactics.

Three cases seen by one doctor in the past week illustrate the problem. ● Catherine, a solicitor's daughter, was only 19 when she met George, who had been divorced and had contracted genital warts. He thought they had been cleared by treatment a year before he met Catherine and was dismayed when she too developed warts less than a year after they married.

Two and a half years later a routine check demonstrated pre-invasive carcinoma although smears taken during her pregnancy 18 months earlier had been normal.

Under the present guidelines Catherine, being under 35 and having had a previous smear within five years, would not have been considered a high-risk patient.

● Susan is 30 and already a high-flyer in the City. Her boyfriend had previously caught warts and a year ago, six months after she met him, she caught them too. A smear carried out in October proved normal; but in February a repeat showed marked changes. She too would have been outside the DHSS guidelines.

● The third case concerns Victoria, a London prostitute, aged 30, who resolved, in view

Patricia Cockburn

is a survivor who

defies convention.

Shirley Lowe

looks at her life,

her spirit and

her great love

On Monday evening Patricia Cockburn found herself sitting on a doorstep in Earl's Court with two heavy suitcases. She had arrived in London from her home in County Waterford to do all the chat shows and interviews that are now obligatory for launching an autobiography — hers was published yesterday — and was locked out of her brother's flat.

SOME 71-year-old ladies might have panicked at this predicament, but Patricia Cockburn is made of sterner stuff. She has survived an earthquake in Africa, a dish of crisply fried maggots, the gift of a live python in Siam (she'd expressed a polite wish for a snakeskin handbag) and more than 40 eventful years of marriage to the radical writer, Claud Cockburn.

She was once arrested in Czechoslovakia and knowing the officer couldn't read English, she waved a letter from a friend "a peccat, which had her coronet printed on the envelope. I declared it was from the King of England, a close relative, and terrible things would happen to him if he did not assist me in every way... it would be a diplomatic incident of the gravest kind."

After all that, a bit of brooding and brooding was child's play. Patricia managed to slip inside the front door and rang every bell in the building until "two terribly nice Chinese" invited her into their flat, from where she was able eventually to rouse her brother. Having been brought up in a disturbed country, she says, you subconsciously feel that absolutely anything might happen at any moment and automatically accept the unexpected.

Patricia was born and brought up in west Cork during the Irish civil war. She was very young, christened Kawara Finnbaragh Evangeline ("My mother, having been restrained with her other five children, let her fancy rip..."); however, the Bishop of Cork balked at the font and said he refused to inflict such terrible names on an innocent baby. "I bless the name of that great and good man," she says.

Because she was a sickly child, her parents left her behind in Ireland with her grandmother when they went to their London house in Grosvenor Gardens, which overlooked the Buckingham Palace gardens.

Edith, Lady Blake was a keen gardener and botanist, spoke nine languages and was a strong nationalist, although her granddaughter notes that her revolutionary views did not extend to social equality. Patricia was forbidden to speak to the servants: "My dear, while passing the kitchens, I heard a loud laugh and to my horror I realized that the voice was yours."

This was no impoverished Anglo-Irish family in the Somerville and Ross tradition. There were servants for every occasion and Patricia even had her own groom for her three ponies. She thought nothing of riding 13 miles there and back to a meet and hunting for five hours and when she grew older, rode to parties, sending her dress on ahead by post. It says something for the Irish mail of those days that the dress always arrived on time.

She recalls magnificent seven-course dinners with tiny portions, a la today's nouvelle cuisine and the time when the butler disappeared and was discovered, just before a big dinner party, lying dead drunk under the table. Her mother took it calmly, leaning down and saying: "Stay where you are, Jones, and don't touch the ladies' ankles."

It was a privileged childhood and Patricia enjoyed every moment of it: "It would be hypocritical to say that I didn't". The advantage of being born rich, she says, is that it gives you the confidence to fight to succeed and the confidence

Rebel without her Claud



Patricia Cockburn in her successful deb days (left); as she looks today, aged 71 (top); and (bottom) her husband Claud

not to mind too much if you fail. "You know that none of the status things are important, because you've had them all."

Although her grandmother attempted to educate her by reading aloud from Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* and Plutarch's *Lives*, Patricia, at the age of eight, was totally illiterate and her parents brought her to England and sent her to boarding school.

She hated it and starved herself until she was permitted to return to Ireland, to a governess and to grandmama who gave her something more worthwhile than traditional schooling. "She taught me to be interested in everything. I remember once complaining that I was bored and she was furious and said it was outrageous to be bored in this fascinating world into which I'd been lucky enough to be born."

Patricia was presented at court during the great depression. She remembers a good-natured crowd turning out to marvel at the chauffeur-driven limousines with their occupants decked out in satins and jewels and orchids. "It was extraordinary. I didn't hear a single hostile comment on that conspicuous display of wealth."

At 18 she married a Lloyds underwriter and her London house, which Patricia had been decorated black and white, was photographed in all the glossiest magazines. She soon tired of the chic, aimless progression from coffee morning to lunch to shopping to cocktail parties to the 400 Club and persuaded her husband to take a couple of years off.

The Royal Geographical Society asked her to trace the nomadic tribes of the Far East and she did the job so well that when they returned to England, she was asked to go central Africa and investigate the root language of the pygmies.

After any number of startling adventures, the couple came home to find their baby son, who had been left with a nanny and Patricia's mother, desperately ill. A scratch on the nose had turned septic.

Patricia sat and watched her baby die. Then, feeling a desperate need to get away by herself, she did not — as most of us would have done — go to Bourneville for a nice rest, but to Ruthenia, on the extreme tip of Czechoslovakia, to write for the *Evening Standard*.

When she returned to Lon-

dun this time, the war was beginning and her marriage was ending. She went to a smart party and met and fell in love with Claud Cockburn. He was a tall, gangling Scot with so much charm that even Evelyn Waugh, who was bitchy about everybody, referred to him as "my poor, dear, mad cousin Claud".

Cockburn had been married twice worse for the Communist *Daily Worker* and, at the same time, produced his own subversive and influential news-sheet called *The Week*.

Patricia's mother considered Claud a traitor to his class and her father remonstrated: "Don't you realize, Patricia, that if you go ahead with this mad plan, you will never be allowed into the Royal Enclosure at Ascot again."

They were married, Patricia was disinherited and, after a

lifetime of having enough money to do anything she wanted, found herself living on £9 a week. Luckily, it was wartime and you could not buy much anyway.

They made their friends among the Hampstead set and the working class communists around the *Worker*, whom Patricia found more entertaining.

By 1947 Claud had become disenchanted with Communism. At lunch one day General de Gaulle had asked him why he was a Communist and when Claud told him, the General listened sympathetically and then said: "You don't think your view is somewhat romantic?" Claud came back from Paris with a duodenal ulcer and the determination to begin a totally new life.

They left London and rented a derelict Georgian house near

Patricia's family home in Youghal. Here, Claud bravely set about writing freelance articles and books under a bevy of names. "Claud" wrote and thought and wrote and I did the practical things," says Patricia. She found two local gravediggers to dig their cesspit for £15 instead of the £500 professionals charged for the job, and when the rats ate the putty in the newly replaced window panes, she resourcefully mixed mud with poison with the next batch of putty.

She bought up tinkers' ponies which she then trained and sold to push riding schools in England, spending whole afternoons in oriental bargaining. Eventually, she'd say: "I'd willingly give you the price, it's a beautiful animal, but my husband, he's a terrible hard man. Himself would never agree." And Himself, who hated

horses and couldn't tell a thoroughbred from a draught horse, would emerge from the house, sneer at the pony, say it was fit only for pet food and return to his writing.

Misfortune, says Patricia, often prizes couples apart, causing them to lash out at each other as the only available objects to vent their frustrations on, but when two of their three sons got polio, it brought Patricia and Claud even closer together.

They were told that Patrick, the youngest, would always need callipers, a plastic corset and crutches. "I think I would have gone mad if it hadn't been for Claud," says Patricia. In fact, both boys recovered and Patrick, who is now a foreign correspondent, recently marched right across the Lebanon, admittedly with a slight limp.

After that, Patricia nursed Claud through one devastating illness after another. He survived tuberculosis, cancer, burst duodenal ulcers, emphysema and cataracts in both eyes and he never stopped writing until he died four years ago, aged 77. With her husband dead and her children grown up, Patricia's life seemed flat and depressing. "Claud and I made each other laugh, all the time. The worst thing about him dying was that I'd go out and something would happen and I'd think, 'Oh, I must tell Claud', and of course, there was no Claud."

Looking for an interest, she discovered 18th-century shell pictures. Researching the subject she began making her own pictures to the traditional patterns and has now had several shows in Ireland and New York. She is also a keen gardener and works all day on her garden and in the evenings on her shells, puffing contentedly away at around 50 Sweet Ailons a day.

"It's disgusting," said her doctor recently, when he was given her a medical check-up. Patricia thought he'd found something terminal in her X-rays but he was just disgusted to find that after ignoring all his advice to stop smoking she still had the blood pressure of a 30-year-old.

When Claud was fighting for his eyesight, he told her that if he couldn't write, he'd rather be dead. His widow agrees, "Doing work which interests you is the only way to peace and happiness," she says. "I'm completely sure of that."

Figure of Eight by Patricia Cockburn is published by Chatto and Windus, £10.95. Claud Cockburn's novels *Beat the Peri* and *Saltwater & Folly* are published by The Hogarth Press, £3.95 each.

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CERVICAL CANCER: CHANGING PATTERNS

| Year | Under 24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45+ | All ages |
|------|----------|-------|-------|-------|----------|
| 1972 | 280 | 1,790 | 2,480 | 9,080 | 13,630 |
| 1977 | 330 | 3,270 | 2,960 | 8,840 | 15,400 |
| 1982 | 420 | 4,360 | 4,020 | 8,920 | 17,720 |

| Deaths | 3 | 121 | 196 | 1,639 | 1,959 |
|--------|---|-----|-----|-------|-------|
| 1983 | | | | | |

SCREEN TECHNIQUES

SYMPTOMS Women are too tolerant of abnormal vaginal symptoms. Early treatment of cervical problems would give even better results if women saw their doctors as soon as they noticed vaginal bleeding, or "spotting", occurring after intercourse, or if they had unexplained or unusual bleeding between periods.

HOW TO OBTAIN A SMEAR

● From your GP Although doctors are paid only for smear tests on the over 35s, a magazine for GPs, estimates that family doctors are now completing more than a million smears a year without payment.

● From family planning clinics Not all family planning clinics adhere to the DHSS guidelines i.e. one smear test within two years of starting sex and thereafter at five-yearly intervals after the age of 35. Most will perform annual checks for anybody with a history of exposure to warts or herpes.

● From the hospital New patients are usually given smear tests and special clinics (genito-urinary medical clinics) expect to carry out annual smears on patients, more often if minor cervical changes are noted.

● Privately from well women screening clinics: Bupa or PPP.

SMEAR TAKING Most women find a smear test to be painless. The doctor examines the patient either on her back or side. It is imperative that he obtains a good view of the cervix so that cells can be scraped with well made wooden spatula from well inside the cervical canal. Particular attention should be paid to the anterior and posterior lips.

The scraping is then spread on a slide, dried with alcohol and sent to

the laboratory for analysis. One consultant cytopathologist estimates that one third of all smears are not taken as well as they should be.

WHAT THE DOCTOR MEANS Smear results are described by doctors either by reference to the overall appearance of the epithelium or by classifying the cells seen. The microscopic changes, described as a positive smear, range from minimal cervical dysplasia to invasive carcinoma (cancer).

● Minimal cervical dysplasia is when abnormal cells occur only in the lower third of the epithelium. Most revert to normal but require careful attention.

● Severe dysplasia is when two-thirds of the epithelium shows abnormal proliferation; this can sometimes revert to normal but more often progresses to carcinoma-in-situ where the abnormal cells can be found throughout the whole thickness of the epithelium. When the cells have crossed the basement membrane the condition is described as invasive carcinoma of the cervix. Thereafter the cancer can spread by direct infiltration of neighbouring structures or through the lymphatic system to other organs.

● Call classification: Class 1: No abnormal cells; Class 2: Atypical cells (usually as a result of inflammation and infection); Class 3: Malignant cells seen. Some specialized units now examine the cervix through a colposcope, an instrument which enables the doctor to see the cervix in microscopic detail. A biopsy, a tiny snip out of the cervix with a punch, is at the most uncomfortable.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

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THE TIMES DIARY

Changing colours

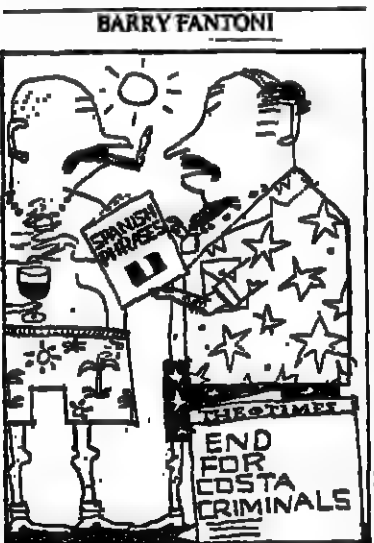
The far-right Monday Club wants to move out of the cold, it seems. And if this involves ditching one of its most prominent members, an MP, so be it. A letter from George Gardiner MP, a member of the club's executive, to Mrs Thatcher has been leaked to me. Gardiner asks if he can take a deputation of Monday Club officers to see her, reminding her how supportive the club has been of her policies. He continues: "To be honest, the Club has not been served particularly well by one of our fellow MPs's efforts concerning immigration policy, but I am glad to say we have just completed a total revision of the Club's Statement of Aims, removing the reference to repatriation and strengthening the assertion of equality of all British subjects before the law". The aims do, in fact, still support voluntary repatriation; only the word itself has been removed. From Gardiner yesterday, no comment. Nor from Harvey Proctor, chairman of the club's immigration and race relations committee and advocate of voluntary repatriation to whom Gardiner was doubtless referring.

Horse's mouth

BBC staff have it made. Don't take my word for it - take Barbara's. She is a freelance computer operator working in the sports department. On Wednesday she used a computer terminal to write a letter to her friends Sharon and Ann telling how she works from 11.00 to 5.30 ("a cushy number, eh?"), enjoys "lovely" three-course lunches in the canteen for under £1 and can "go for lunch when I like and return when I like". Barbara then, accidentally, dispatched her letter to every computer and teletypewriter outlet in the corporation. A cancellation message followed post haste.

Two notions

What a whimsical lot the Foreign Affairs Select Committee are. Days before their jaunt to the Soviet Union, members have just had a secret meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe's junior minister, Malcolm Rifkind, who warned them against any attempt to meet dissidents. The committee meekly gave its word. Clearly there is one law for the committee's chairman, Sir Anthony Kershaw, and another for Sir Geoffrey. In April Sir Geoffrey led a trip to Czechoslovakia where he created a diversion, by singing Welsh ballads in a nightclub, that allowed officials to meet dissidents.



Barry Fantoni

Knocking on doors

Absent-minded Tory backbencher Keith Raffan, the scourge of by-election candidates when with the *Daily Express*, re-emerged doing the Brexiteer campaign as Chris Butler's minder, assigned to fend off his former press colleagues. But he won no friends at Brecon's Wellington Hotel, the Tory HQ. Three times he lost his keys, three times forced the owner out of bed to let him in during the early hours. "He even lost his car keys once," she moaned. Will he hold on to the Tory despite?

Return to lender

Former students attending the 20th anniversary celebrations of Kent University have been baffled by the disappearance of two huge, colourful and exotic rugs that used to cover the bare brick walls of the dining room of Rutherford Hall. The rugs, I learn, belonged to Princess Marina, the university's first chancellor, and were lent to it by her son, Prince Michael of Kent, after her death. Prince Michael then married, and visited the university with his bride, Princess Michael, a fancy to the rugs. They are now, I gather, back at Kensington Palace.

Vox pop

The ILEA, London's terribly progressive education authority, just cannot agree on how to spend its dwindling funds. Tony Powell has resigned as an authorizing member of the youth subcommittee after refusing to sanction spending £10,000 on booking pop star Jimmy Somerville for an "ILEA ALIVE" pop concert in Brixton next week. He was apparently outraged at the idea of paying so much when schools are not being repaired or text books replaced. Tough. In an ILEA newsletter its leader, Frances Morell, declares: "People in my local get tired of hearing me play his records on the juke box. I'm proud he's playing in our concert."

PHS

Hayek's licence to print money

by Peter Clarke

Some of the City's best brains are meeting privately at the Institute of Economic Affairs in Lord North Street at lunchtime today to hear Friedrich Hayek explain how they can make themselves even richer and save the rest of us from a future of inflation. Professor Hayek, leader of the world's libertarian philosophers, says the most urgent priority for capitalists of every colour is to free themselves from the state's monopoly of money.

The notion of privatizing money was first elaborated by Professor Hayek in 1975, a year after he won his Nobel Prize for economics. His later book, *The Denationalisation of Money*, called for the creation of a Free Money Movement comparable to Cobden and Bright's Free Trade Movement in the 1840s.

Today's meeting is not just a tutorial for bankers: it is a serious attempt to initiate a new currency system. Hayek says he has changed upon a (still secret) name for his proposed new money that will be so compelling that the very name itself will draw support for the idea.

This private money or "commodity reserve currency" as he styles it, would be based on the value of a "basket" or agreed list of commodities such as aluminium, cocoa, coffee and coal. Different

banks could offer different lists and the most stable would be the winner in the market.

Hayek's faith in the creative ingenuity of the market is reflected in some of the fortunes of his audience. Brian Williamson of Gerrard & National and the London International Financial Futures Exchange would see his markets transformed very quickly if the project worked. The market in financial futures would no longer be only a mechanism for insuring against the different rates of decay of state currencies. Financial futures trading would become a market for powerful, private domestic currencies issued by the main banks - or anyone else who found his version in demand. If the major British institutions are not persuaded, then Hayek is confident the scheme will find a home in Wall Street with Walter Wriston, formerly of the Federal Reserve Board and now of Citibank. Monopoly state currencies, he argues, not only cause inflation but create business cycles, economic nationalism and the open temptation to politicians to spend more than their revenues.

Hayek insists we have had only

occasional insights into the sort of money that would emerge spontaneously without government intrusions. Such echoes as we have from the past convince him that competition in currency would be wholly benign. He believes this is far more than a technical financial reform - fundamental, indeed, to the preservation of civilization.

The monetary theories of the last 60 years can be dismissed, he says. Measuring the volume of credit or money supply is futile. By accepting the disciplines of the market we should better understand the word money as an adjective not a noun. It is its quality not quantity that matters.

Hayek has put his detailed proposals to the West German Bundesbank and found it determined to maintain its state monopoly. But, he says, as one of the three great global financial markets, London has the depth and variety to let his scheme take off. The Bank of England and the Treasury will be hostile. But they should remember that the last time Hayek addressed a meeting similar to that today it was to urge the abolition of exchange control. It was abolished. The target now is the legal tender laws.

Objections to private money include the practical doubt that every shop assistant would be as confused as the customer weighed down with pockets of different change. In fact Hayek envisages his new monies being used only for larger contracts such as mortgages, although he points out that everyone living near national borders quickly learns exchange rate skills.

The greatest opponents to "market money" are, paradoxically, monetarists. Hayek regards the efforts of Milton Friedman and his disciples as an intellectual cul-de-sac. Under Hayek's plan the very idea of controlling the money supply would be rendered obsolete; central banks would lose all their functions; supply would be subject to market flows.

Only 25 men will have the advantage of hearing the specific proposals and Hayek's ideas for implementing them. The most persuasive part of his recipe, he repeats, is the name he has chosen for the new currency.

Earlier, the Lithuanian money-lender, found his essay mark was so trusted that "sterling" became the word for security and integrity. Will Hayek come up with something equally potent?

The author is a reporter on Channel 4's Diverse Reports.

Robert Fisk on the most significant outcome of the TWA hostage drama

Assad, the great manipulator



Beirut Some say the president of Lebanon is weak. That is not true. He is a very tough man indeed. The president of Lebanon is Hafez al-Assad, and his home is in Damascus.

That, above all else, is the lesson to be learnt from the Syrian involvement in America's hostage crisis in Beirut. It was President Assad on whom the Americans had to rely. It was Assad who had to negotiate and who had to lean on the more extreme Hezbollah "Party of God" men in the Bekaa Valley to ensure the hostages' freedom. As I was told in Damascus, he had "to knock a few heads together". Only he could have done it.

The total silence of the real president of Lebanon, Amin Gemayel, has made it clear where power lies. When President Reagan wanted to solve one of the most difficult issues of his presidency, he told George Shultz, his Secretary of State, to telephone Gemayel. Reagan himself turned to the man whom he had often accused of being little more than a Soviet surrogate. Reagan, it is said, rang him three times; each time Assad said he would secure the hostages' release. In return, Reagan made some promises to Assad.

One of these promises was revealed at once by Assad to Nabih Berri, the Shia leader in Beirut: the release of all the remaining 733 Lebanese prisoners in Israel, albeit more than 100 of these are Palestinians who were living in Lebanon. The guarantee of their release is now being fulfilled, not as quickly as Assad would like - there was a testy editorial in the Syrian government party newspaper on Tuesday, warning of the consequences of broken promises - but the Aitil prison camp is being emptied of its Lebanese inmates, just as the hijackers demanded. The understanding that has matured between Washington and Damascus in the past few days has been far more important in the Middle East than the immediate results of one hijacking, an episode which the Syrians regarded as a distraction rather than a crisis but one in which they immediately saw benefits.

Assad realizes that in the rhetoric of the White House, Syria is about to be taken off the list of those Middle East nations which the State Department and the Pentagon regard as rogue states. In the past the Reagan administration has always included Syria, with Libya and Iran, in a list of those countries responsible for "state-sponsored terrorism". Assad may not be exactly respectable in Washington, but he is the sort of Arab leader with whom the State Department feels it has to deal.

It is a measure of the State Department's refusal to listen to its own advisers in the Middle East to this should have taken so long to come about. In Washington, the advice from Reginald Bartholomew,

US ambassador in Beirut, and William Eagleton, his opposite number in Damascus, goes unheeded. Over the past three years junior diplomats in both embassies have constantly - though privately - displayed grave misgivings and deep irritation with the administration's unwillingness to accept any advice that is not confirmed by its embassy in Tel Aviv.

Ironically, Assad himself has always refused to deal with the US embassy in Beirut because the Syrian security police believe it is a CIA station rather than a diplomatic mission. It thus took the TWA hijacking to demonstrate at last that Assad was a man with whom the Americans would have to deal.

But deals involve understandings, and the first of these is that the Americans now accept - insofar as such things can be acknowledged publicly - that Lebanon falls under Syria's influence and control, that Israel (and America) have lost their way and that Syria has won. Syria has thus been demanding some guarantee that there will be no more Israeli military adventures in Lebanon; no "scorched earth" and no more Israeli-Phalangist attempts to upset Syria's plans for Lebanon. The Americans refused to promise that Israeli troops would not stage raids into Lebanon if guerrillas

attacked across the Israeli frontier. But the other demands were apparently met. There were, however, more important promises under discussion.

In the American-Syrian talks, Lebanon was what is called, in US diplomatic parlance, a "face issue". The real issues involved Syria itself and its own strategic role in the Middle East. This has been a role hitherto intimately associated with Soviet-Syrian relations and two Soviet promises - to re-equip the Syrian army if it is attacked in Lebanon, and to send troops into Syria if Syrian territory is violated by the Israelis. But two months ago Assad ordered 1,000 of the 3,000 Soviet advisers in Syria to return home: an action duly noted and approved of in the White House.

Assad was at the same time privately indignant about some arrangement - the exact details of which are still unclear - under which the Lebanese Druze leader, Imad Moustakir, offered the Russians access to the Barouk mountain top in central Lebanon after it was evacuated by Israeli troops earlier this year. The Israelis had maintained a radio monitoring station there and Jumblatt is thought to have asked the Russians if they would like to set up a similar facility

once the mountain range fell under the control of his own militia. It was the Syrians who allowed Jumblatt to take over Barouk - at the expense of the Lebanese army - and his apparent offer was seen in Damascus as something of a betrayal.

What the Americans now held out for Damascus was a new series of guarantees - understandings would be a better word - acknowledging that Syria's territory would have to be inviolate, that Israel could not be permitted any military incursions into Syria itself. The Israeli-occupied Golan Heights might also have to come up for discussion in due course.

But for the present the Americans have told Assad that they can guarantee with influence what the Russians insisted on promising only with a military presence. It is a risky business and Assad is too shrewd to accept such things at face value. But in his determination to demonstrate Syria's pivotal role in the Middle East and in any future peace arrangements, the negotiations of the past few days have changed the political face of the Levant. It cost the life of US navy diver Robert Stethem, murdered aboard the TWA jet; but that is the real result of the international crisis that revolved around the 39 Americans imprisoned in Beirut.

Portugal: a crisis easily overlooked

Lisbon The government of Mario Soares of Portugal has all but fallen, but at the volunteer fire station on the Plaza of Happiness, few people seem to care.

"We've had so many political crises here in so few years that we don't pay much attention any more," said Ramiro da Fonseca, his friend gathered in this popular neighbourhood meeting place, agreed.

Last Thursday, President Eanes announced that he would dissolve the National Assembly in about two weeks, which means the end of the Soares Socialist government and a general election. It will be the sixteenth change of government since a right-wing dictatorship was overthrown 11 years ago.

There were no rallies after the announcement, no flourishes of reaction from political leaders. Newspapers, though for weeks declaring a "political crisis", dealt with its denouement as just one more front-page story, sometimes above, sometimes below, news that several children on a school outing were mildly poisoned drinking mountain water from a public fountain. Even Soares went away.

He attended his first, and maybe his last, meeting of EEC heads of government in Milan.

It is not that Portugal's 10 million people are apathetic. Election

turnouts are usually high, and in front of a Communist Party office a

huge banner in bold green and red celebrating the 1974 revolution indicates that passions can be too. But adding to the popular lethargy at the moment is that the beach weather is balmy - political leaders could not be found over the weekend - and that the government's fall is unfolding in slow motion and total confusion.

At the root of the crisis has been a split between the Socialists and the more conservative Social Democrats: their junior partners in the governing coalition, over plans by Soares to run for president in elections scheduled for December. Under the Portuguese system, the prime minister runs the government, but the president moulds a long-term vision for the nation.

Last month the Social Democrats announced they were pulling out, but not until after the signing of the EEC treaty. Then Soares dramatically declared his intention to resign, but did not submit his resignation until last Tuesday.

In a flurry of meetings that went nowhere, President Eanes and Soares, normally bitter enemies,

found themselves allies seeking to avoid a general election. Eanes argued that an election would be destabilizing as living standards have been dropping, the government is in the midst of a tough but needed austerity programme and Portugal lags in preparations to enter the EEC in January. All parties but the Socialists disagreed.

Finally, on Thursday of last week, in an announcement that was scheduled, cancelled and then issued by surprise, Eanes said he was dissolving the National Assembly - but only after it ratifies the EEC treaty.

The ratification, which enjoys overwhelming support, is due to be voted on next Wednesday. But a snag in the timing could throw all plans awry. The president's constitutionally reserved right to dissolve the assembly runs out on July 14, six months before the end of his term. That gives only four days after the EEC vote.

President Eanes also refused to accept Soares's resignation. The president said he would consider it "at an appropriate time," which his aides said meant that he wanted Soares to stay on until the scheduled general election, probably in early October.

Soares had wanted to dissociate himself from the lame-duck government and focus on his presidential campaign, though in office he at least has control over patronage and the state-run television.

Correction In Ronald Butcher's article yesterday, the end of a sentence referring to Westfield College, London University, was omitted. It should have read: "It alone offers residential accommodation in central London to the traditional collegiate manner, on the same site as the teaching."

moreover... Miles Kingston

Loopholes in the Watford Gap

The great sporting event of July is not tennis or cricket but how to avoid Junction 8 on the M1. Here are a few letters recounting readers' varied experiences.

From Sir Basil Topsell Sir, Other motorists may be interested in my attempt at a solution to the M1 problem. Coming south, I turned off at Junction 10, took the B483 to Bleckley, three miles after Bleckley I took a side road to the right, hoping to link up with the A413, then a twisting lane off that. Imagine my surprise to find the lane absolutely jammed with cars, stationary and nose-to-tail. Chasing to some of the other drivers, I found that we were all trying to avoid the M1. There and then we decided to form the Contraflow Club, a private picknicking association, and we now meet there twice a week. Any potential members are asked to get in touch.

From Mr Simon Furber Sir, As a director of some 60 companies, I am constantly driving to London for AGMs. This week I decided to play safe and hire a helicopter to Leicester. Imagine my anger when we found the airspace over Junction 8 so congested with TV, film, police and ministry aircraft that we had to make a considerable detour via Aylesbury. Would it not be possible to devise an aerial contraflow system, perhaps with floating cones and airborne direction signs?

From Mrs Iris Maxwell Sir, Answering a knock on our cottage door at 10.30 last night, I found an unshaven driver suffering from hunger, dehydration and partial amnesia. He said he had been trying all day to find a way round the other ways round the M1. As our cottage is in Somerset, I fear that British map-reading is not what it was.

From Terry and Pat Juniper Sir, We run a tiny cuisine nouvelle restaurant in Oxfordshire, about 40

miles from the M1. This morning we woke up to find 40 juggernauts parked in our lane, with the drivers all requesting double egg, bacon and chips, no doubt suffering from service area withdrawal symptoms.

As we depend more on tinned fruit and raspberry vinegar than chips, we had problems. But with last improvisation we were able to offer such dishes as baked beans in ginger spam glazed with coriander, fish finger bouillabaisse and duck marinated in ketchup. They loved it!

From Sir Terence Wyter and his chauffeur Sir, We normally do not pick up hitch-hikers, but coming to the M1 this week from Kilburn, we asked a youth with a sign saying: "I know a very good way round Junction 8." Nothing ventured, nothing won, so we picked him up. He certainly took us on a very uncrowded route, as I remember, Hitchin, Bedford and Kimbolton. We finally ended up on a farm track at a place called Simpson's End.

"Where do we go from here?" we asked. "Nowhere," he said. "I live here." Full marks for initiative! I have taken the young man on as personal assistant.

From Mr Tim Righteous Sir, Am I the only one to resent Mrs Lynda Chalker's attempts to modernize the M1? Our snarl-ups in and around Junction 8, with the gay cones, flashing blue police lights and crews of jolly men in orange jackets, have become one of the best-loved features of the British countryside. I need hardly add that traffic accidents in solid tail-backs are very few and far between. Hands off our old and crumbling motorways!

From Mr Vincent Camshaft Sir, Having in my car a phone, TV, stereo etc, I am not too worried by motorway delays, but this time I thought I would play safe. I motored down to Southampton, took the ferry to Le Havre, drove round to Calais and came to London via Dover. While in France, I took the opportunity of listening to and watching their coverage of Wimbledon, and I must say that their commentators are superior to ours.

Needless to say, I was caught in a huge jam on the M2 coming into London.

Yours



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

AT THE SUMMIT

Can we expect a more constructive relationship to emerge from the Geneva Summit in November or is it simply a chance to get acquainted? East-West summits have a mixed record, some ending in champagne and smiles, others in bitter recriminations. Perhaps it is a hopeful sign that the superpowers are meeting each other half way in Geneva, 30 years ago this month Geneva was the venue for successful agreements between western leaders and Mr Krushchev on cultural exchanges which went some way to reducing Soviet barriers with the outside world. But real progress depends on hard negotiations by professional diplomats rather than brief conversations between leaders.

At a later summit the hardened Mr Krushchev tried to browbeat young President Kennedy. Now the pundits say that it will be the young Mr Gorbachov who will score over elderly President Reagan - a prediction, however, which is not at all justified by the record of earlier talks. Mr Reagan coped well with the veteran Andrei Gromyko when they met in Washington last September and although Mr Gorbachov is steadily extending his control over foreign affairs and will have broadened his experience by meeting President Mitterrand in October, he is still a relative novice in dealing with the outside world. The Soviet delegation is now less likely to walk out of the Geneva arms limitation talks, as they threatened to do unless the Americans cancel the strategic defence initiative. That could remain a divisive issue at the summit, as could the unratified SALT II agreement, but it would be salutary for Mr Gorbachov to appreciate the profundity of the President's commitment to a

defence philosophy which the Soviet Union has embraced all along.

Moscow refuses to admit the extent of the Soviet strategic defence programme and continues its propaganda campaign on SDI, aimed at splitting the United States from its European allies. If Moscow continues in that vein, there is little point in the two leaders discussing the matter. Soviet statements on the meeting have concentrated on the need to reduce the arms race, and Moscow's official message of congratulations to President Reagan on Independence Day yesterday called on Washington to join the USSR in its efforts "to strengthen peace and security".

The myth that the Kremlin is struggling for peace while reactionary circles in the NATO countries pursue their aggressive aims is found also, albeit in less crude form, even in some western commentary, which through hostility to the Reagan Administration, is prepared to blame any breakdown in summit talks on Washington's "inflexibility". This need to satisfy public opinion by achieving some outward signs of progress puts pressure on the Western side alone, a significant factor which Soviet leaders have learned to exploit.

Yet there is no necessity to launch into another point-scoring exercise; the Helsinki process has provided more than enough opportunity for that. It would require little effort for example for the two leaders to agree on encouraging mutually beneficial trade and cultural links. Although Mr Gorbachov has urged his ministers to be less dependent on imports, the USSR desperately wants western technology. Moreover, the mood in the United States seems ripe for increasing contacts with the

USSR under its new leadership; more than a dozen different congressional delegations are hoping to shake official hands in Moscow this summer.

If SDI should be avoided and economic co-operation on some scale taken for granted, what is left? Clearly both sides should have an interest in preventing the hi-jacking of aircraft; the USSR because it wishes to keep its population at home, the United States to protect the lives of citizens travelling abroad. But Mr Gorbachov should state openly his attitude to terrorism. If he merely repeats the line of his controlled media, blaming all terrorism on Western imperialism, he will win no propaganda victory. Nor will it do for him to portray Washington as responsible for all the troubles in Lebanon or the Iran-Iraq war, unless he can back his stand by proposing sensible solutions to these and other problems in the middle east.

Genuine discussion is required; the summit will have little value if all awkward questions are avoided. Traveling to Geneva should not only broaden Mr Gorbachov's horizon, it should help open the minds of many in the west who are content to equate Nicaragua and Afghanistan, Soviet banning of emigration with western unemployment, or imprisoning dissidents for 15 years with police control of western peace demonstrations. Apart from other major differences, these issues are freely debated in the West. There is nothing Mr Gorbachov can say to President Reagan which has not already been raised at White House press conferences. But for a Soviet leader who has just ousted his last major rival, answering direct criticism of his policies will be a novel and useful experience.

THE CARTEL'S COME-UPPANCE

Straits, last tempers and last minute hotel-room deals have become a feature of the half-yearly meetings of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) as its members struggle to maintain the unity of the cartel against ever more compelling and unfavourable market forces. The oil ministers meeting in Vienna this weekend will be expecting a particularly torrid session. The cracks are becoming wider, the paper to cover them more fragile and transparent.

The arguments about who is breaking the production quotas instituted to shore up the market price of oil have been superseded. Opec's members are today probably producing in total only around 14 million barrels a day against the 16 million ceiling agreed in January. Non-Opec producers, free from the cartel's price and output restraints, have increased their production to around 25 million barrels per day, reversing the relationships of a few years ago. Britain, Norway, Mexico and others are benefiting from Opec's lingering attempts at price-fixing and seizing its markets. Many of Opec's members would be better off without the cartel, unless there were a price war.

If Opec as a whole is losing, many of its members are still cheating their colleagues, by discounting prices in order to maintain production at quota levels. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait,

which appear still to be playing the game on prices as they did previously on output, are clearly becoming exasperated. Suggestions that they might even abandon the organization, effectively destroying it, have been leaked in Gulf newspapers. That seems to have convinced some other members, long used to thinking that the Saudis had any amount of leeway to absorb pressure as the "swing producer", that this is no longer so. The Saudis have cut production so far that they have been overtaken by Britain's North Sea. And they are having to draw on their \$100 billion financial surplus by up to \$1 billion per month.

The strategy of Sheikh Yamani and other Opec stalwarts is to maintain some semblance of order and unity within their organization until the oil market finally turns. Then many of its members will gain both price and output benefit from their recent pains since non-Opec output is near its peak while many of the Gulf states in particular have plenty of potential to raise and control production.

Few market analysts expect that change of fortune to be other than long drawn out. And the longer it takes the market to turn, the greater the potential for non-Opec members to exploit new additional reserves. Meanwhile, in any case, the pressure within the organization is becoming ever more generalized as the countries with small populations begin to share the problems already experienced by Nigeria, Indonesia and others.

In Vienna, the Saudis will be pressing for a better deal. This would logically involve a further price cut. Recent cuts have been disguised by juggling the differentials between heavy and light crudes one way, then another. It is time for heavy crude to fall again, now that the temporary boost to demand from Britain's coal strike has disappeared. But it would require a more general undisciplined cut to cure the Saudis' problems. So they are likely to press for a still lower total Opec production ceiling with a bigger share for themselves.

Given the warning signals from the Saudis, who can tell how persuasive they will again prove in the end? The proposition, however, must be looked more and more unrealistic to the non-Arab members of Opec, however anxious some of them with dwindling reserves, such as Venezuela, may be to maintain prices. The world economy would undoubtedly benefit from a gradual further fall in the price of oil. As the financial pressure on even the Gulf states increases, even the Third World countries who have benefited from Gulf aid and jobs to counteract oil costs must surely be thinking that almost everyone would be better off without Opec.

TIME FOR A NEW MODEL TEACHER

The Times Educational Supplement this morning reports a petition from headteachers in Suffolk. "The dangerous deterioration now so evident in our schools must be halted," they say poignantly. "No progress will be made with further vital reforms without the restoration of dignity and self-respect to the classroom teacher." The heads speak for colleagues throughout the country, and for all who, caring about the nation's future, are perturbed by the present condition of the schools after 17 weeks of strike, walk-out and withdrawal. But the teaching profession needs no quick fix. The answer cannot be some ransom from the Contingency Reserve but an entirely new structure for salaries, hours and promotions. Only such a new teaching contract will secure those vital reforms in children's examinations and in school curriculum.

But have the headteachers of Suffolk got the right address? They are petitioning the Government. Last November it was the National Union of Teachers which slouched away from a bargaining table on which lay the skeleton of a new salary structure. Last week it was the same union's Mr Jarvis who said the promise of extra money for restructuring had "no relevance". On Tuesday, Sir Keith letter to Mr Jarvis. Sir Keith Joseph reiterated that the

Government is holding the financial ring for the teachers and their local authority employers to agree a formula for pay and duties. Sir Keith has the right address. The NUT, with the other unions, has the remedy.

Perhaps the time has come for Sir Keith to turn on the charm. The approaching summer holiday will be a battle of wits. The NUT has hinted at all-out strike action in the autumn; the unions will be out to stiffen the troops. On the other side, Sir Keith, his Cabinet colleagues, and allies among the local authorities have a selling job to do. Many teachers are confused about the exact status of their unions' claims; many others are anxious about the wash of educational change. At the North of England educational conference Sir Keith emphasized the disciplinary elements in any re-structuring package. He was right. Appraisal means nothing unless it stings the less competent teacher. But when Sir Keith spells out in more detail how performance appraisal and promotion on merit might work, he should emphasize the positive. He should do so now. Many teachers, and not only those trapped by the present salary scales, have nothing to fear and much to gain by a scheme which better recognizes their talent. There have been occasions

Communism and roots of terror

From Mrs Jillian Becker

Sir, Mr L. R. Temple (June 26) answers your leader "Behind the terrorist" (June 24) with points which are consistent with Soviet publications on terrorism, and not surprisingly. The company of which he is managing director, Progressive Tours, has been for years a front organization controlled by the Communist Party of Great Britain.

In 1976 (for example) six of its seven directors and shareholders were officials at the headquarters of the CPGB; the party's two accountants and its assistant secretary, the head of its organization department, its treasurer, and the secretary of the People's Press Printing Society which runs the *Morning Star*.

The seventh was Mr Temple, who stood as the Communist candidate for Westminster in the GLC elections of 1964, 1967, 1970 and 1973.

The Soviet version of what lies behind terrorism could not have been easier to formulate. Its authors, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, had to take account of these facts: that almost all terrorist actions are carried out in and against Western liberal democracies and their allied states; that almost all terrorist groups are left-wing and that Western researchers have found evidence that most groups have received aid, training, advice, encouragement and arms directly or indirectly from the Soviet Union.

So they explain that terrorism arises from the innate contradictions of capitalism and the general malaise of the decaying bourgeois world; they deny one means to shorten the road to socialism, and organizations can be called "terrorist" at all; they call those left-wing groups which propagate a Maoist or Trotskyist line "grossly deviant" - Mr Temple's very words; and they maintain that the CIA, the US Government, China and the top brass military of the non-Communist states are severely and/or in conspiracy backing terrorism.

To prove that they themselves are ideologically incapable of doing so, they rely on Lenin's strident attack against "individual terrorism" and his insistence that the "armed struggle" can only be led, organized and guided by the party, as the "mass political action" Mr Temple refers to.

Mr Temple appeals to Marx and Lenin to "prove" that the Communist Party would not use or support terrorism. But both Marx and Lenin did, emphatically, advocate the use of terrorism. This Marx:

"The only one means to shorten, simplify and concentrate the death agony of the old society and the bloody birth pangs of the new, one means only - revolutionary terrorism."

And Lenin: "Of course we rejected individual terror only on the grounds of expediency." And: "We do not at all oppose political killing" (this emphasis). And: "Terrorist partisan acts against representatives of the violent regime..." (this emphasis).

Yours faithfully,
JILLIAN BECKER,
First Floor, 30 Oval Road, NW1, July 1.

Beating off bees

From Mr John H. B. Rawson

Sir, As owner of 700 occupied bees, I suppose I've been chased by bees more often than most people, and have learned as follows.

When stung by a bee, it is important to move away quickly. The reason for this is that the scent of the venom left by a sting acts as a signal to other bees: "This is the spot to attack."

When one has a bee in one's hair the correct procedure is to administer a sharp slap, crushing it on one's scalp. This, done carefully, is less painful than a sting.

One should then cover one's head with a jacket and make for any low bushes near by. Pursuing bees are baffled. Swarming bees are, indeed, usually amiable. Old bee books showed photographs of the bees wearing only the hives, the hives consisting of huge hanging swarms of placid bees.

Yours etc,
JOHN H. B. RAWSON,
Wiltshire Downs Honey Farm,
Ufford, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, June 25.

By-pass bonus

From Mrs Sheila Broughton

Sir, The recently opened Blandford by-pass has given a double bonus to those who live here: the Georgian town is now quieter and safer; the banks of the by-pass are being naturalized by wild flowers. The glorious sheets of "Flanders" poppies delight all travellers; they are a joy and a reminder of an older England. The thistle-heads will delight the goldfinches.

Are there, I wonder, other places where the demands of modern traffic have resulted in a return of sights and tranquillity enjoyed in past years?

Yours faithfully,
STELLA BOUGHTON,
Deer Park House, Blandford, Dorset.

Level-crossing danger

From Councillor Mrs Anne Moore

Sir, The anxiety expressed by the staff and governors of Cherry Hinton Infants' School (June 27) about the dangers of automatic half-barriers at level crossings near schools, is fully shared by the people of Ectingham, in East Sussex.

British Rail is proposing to install these here, too - in our case in place of a skirted half barrier - in order to save the cost of having a manned signal box at Ectingham station. At present the barrier is operated by the signalman.

Britain's place in engineers' league

From the Director-General of The Engineering Council

Sir, Mr C. U. M. Smith was right (June 28) in pointing out that the utilitarian attack on universities in the nineteenth century was repulsed. The cultural attitude fostered by succeeding generations of academics has been one of the most powerful forces contributing to the decline of our industrial base.

If the purpose of a university education is to discover and transmit knowledge, assess facts, make judgments, encouraging creativity and prepare young people for a working life, then a degree course in engineering serves this purpose admirably. It is as worth while as courses in philosophy and English literature.

By a complicated and circuitous route, Professor Morris (June 28) endeavours to argue that we produce about the same number of graduate engineers as our major competitors. To start with he quotes the output of engineering graduates as 17 per cent of the total, while the recent Green Paper on the development of higher education into the 1990s clearly shows that the output over the last five years has not exceeded 13 per cent. It must be more accurate to take the actual number of engineering graduates in each country and divide by the national population.

The Manpower Services Commission/National Economic Development Council report, *Competence and Competition*, published last year, gave the following revealing statistics on first degree engineering graduates:

| | No of graduates | Graduates per 1000 of population |
|-------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Japan | 74,000 | 630 |
| USA | 80,000 | 620 |
| UK | 15,000 | 270 |

I would suggest that this country's position is highly critical. No wonder we have had grave shortages of engineers and technologists every time there has been an upturn in the trade cycle, and we have thereby lost market share. We are no longer cushioned by captive empire markets, and must face fierce international competition to maintain our standard of living.

The country must give priority to the wealth-creating industries and shift the balance to a

higher proportion of engineering graduates. The alternative is bleak indeed. The Government in the Green Paper has acknowledged the harsh realities. It is to be hoped that academia will do the same.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MILLER,
Director-General,
The Engineering Council,
Canberra House,
Malvern Street, WC2,
July 3.

From Mr Peter R. Brookman

Sir, You accord pride of place to the headmaster's plea (June 21) for his young mathematics teacher in her dispute for more pay. Perhaps I can be afforded the same indulgence to gain an increase for the young engineers who work for this company.

In manufacturing industry the money from which the wages, bills and taxes are paid derive directly from, and only from, those received for the products of our labours. This gross sum is determined by how we compete in the world market place. It does not matter if one aims only at the home market; someone from elsewhere in the world will also be taking aim. And if the aim is overseas, they will be found hitting bulseyes there also. Making and selling products is an inextinguishable task, continuously demanding - there is no let-up for long holidays three times a year paid for from the public purse.

Thus for our workers, young and not so young, to have more take-home pay, either we must be protected from world competition, or we must be taxed less. The former path is usually self-defeating; it only leads to retaliation - although, as an aside, the Japanese, who have done so much to distort world markets, have nothing to retaliate with.

The other entails resisting the special pleadings by the public sector, however emotionally made up by headmasters shedding bitter tears.

Yours faithfully,
PETER R. BROOKMAN,
Managing Director,
R. S. Brookman Ltd
Parkside Works,
Rothley, Leicester
June 24.

The Honeyford affair

From Dr Christopher Vincenzi

Sir, There are a number of misconceptions and omissions in your leader of June 28, I wonder if I might be permitted to put an alternative view?

1. The criteria you suggest for judging the performance of Drummond Middle School are not altogether appropriate. The pupils' ages range from nine to 13. They do not, therefore, take examinations or sit public school entrance tests. The extent of their qualifications and employment prospects simply does not arise in this school.

2. The "bureaucratic guidelines on multi-ethnic provisions" to which you rather contemptuously refer represent a policy of multi-cultural education laboriously developed by teachers and educationalists over many years. It enjoys all-party support and provides the children with just that stimulating and varied environment which, as you acknowledge, they need.

Trusting accountants

From Mr Jeremy Bagge

Sir, As honorary auditor to my parochial church council, I was both shocked and offended, as many hundreds of others of similar appointment must have been, on receipt of notification of a new provision relating to the annual accounts and balance sheet of the PCC for 1985 and the future. To quote:

"... the auditors, who are required to be appointed by the annual parochial church meeting can no longer be drawn from within the membership of the parochial church council. Where it exists this undesirable practice must stop. Should it have already been repeated, the error should be immediately rectified by the council."

Does this not imply that we cannot be trusted by the controlling body of the Church whose fortunes are so dependent upon the charitable contribution of the PCC members, whether in monetary or honorary terms or both?

I take strong exception to an honorary audit being referred to as "an undesirable practice". I take strong exception that one's honorary appointment should be regarded as an "error" and "should be immediately rectified".

I challenge the General Synod to make a public apology to the many hundreds of people it must have offended and I look to the General Synod to amend its rule 8 (5) as there are likely to be many parishes who will find it difficult, if not impossible, to appoint an honorary auditor from outside their members.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BAGGE,
Stradsett Estate Office,
Stradsett, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

UK and apartheid

From Mr Howard Fry

Sir, Although one respects Bishop Huddleston's lifelong devotion to the cause of justice for South Africa's black population it is hard not to see his attitude (June 22) as that of a political activist rather than a Christian leader.

It is quite acceptable, perhaps, for political activists to fly in the face of the facts and deny that reforms, like the legalization of mixed marriages, black trade unions, and freehold housing rights for blacks, plus the replacement of white provincial councils by multiracial regional councils, are genuine changes offering hope for the future. But should not a Christian leader try to be more balanced in his views?

The withdrawal of Western investment in South Africa is certain to increase unemployment and reduce living standards for all South Africans of whatever colour. It is likely to result in strikes, rioting and a sharp deterioration in relations between the various racial groups.

Although Western supporters of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, living safely and comfortably in Britain or America, can contemplate poverty, misery and even injury and death in the Cape or Witwatersrand without too much distress, surely a former archbishop should be searching for a route towards a just society, which is more in accordance with the teachings in the Gospels?

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD FRY,
The Cottage,
Dulverton,
Somerset,
June 25.

Level-crossing danger

From Councillor Mrs Anne Moore

Sir, I have a colleague from Geneva who asked me to send out for a Swiss roll, when he was last in London, to have with his mid-afternoon cup of tea.

He says you can't get it over there. I don't believe him. It's probably called *rouleau anglais*.

Yours truly,
MARTIN SALTER,
64 Church Crescent,
Muswell Hill, N10.

ON THIS DAY

JULY 5 1821

Napoleon Bonaparte was born at Ajaccio, Corsica on August 15, 1769. He was crowned emperor in 1804. After his defeat at Waterloo by Wellington in 1815 he was exiled to the island of St. Helena in the Atlantic, where he died on May 5, 1821. There he was buried but in 1840 his remains were brought back to Paris where they rest in the Invalides.

DEATH OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE

(FROM OUR OWN SOURCES OF INFORMATION)

The dispatches brought by Captain Crokat, announcing the death of Bonaparte are dated St. Helena, May 17. That event took place on the 5th of May, at ten minutes before six in the afternoon. The illness of the ex-Emperor lasted, in the whole, six weeks and its effects on his frame as described by an officer who had frequent opportunities of seeing him during that period, were so powerful as nearly to reduce him to a skeleton, and to obliterate all traces of his former features. ... One trait of character displayed itself in his last moments, which marks the "ruling passion strong in death". As he found his end approach, he was habited, at his own request, in his uniform of Field Marshal, with the boots and spurs, and placed on a camp bed, on which he was accustomed to sleep when in health, and preferred to every other...

Thus terminates in exile and in prison the most extraordinary life yet known in political history. The vicissitudes of such a life, indeed, are the most valuable lessons which history can furnish. Connected with, and founded in, the principles of his character, the varieties of fortune which Bonaparte experienced are of a nature to illustrate the most useful maxims of benevolence, patriotism, or discretion. They embrace both extremes of the condition of man in society, and therefore address themselves to the feelings of all men. But Bonaparte was our enemy - our defeated enemy - and as Englishmen we must not tarnish our triumph over the living warrior, by unjustly imputing to him the death of a man who, by his own efforts, had won the admiration of all men. The community of which Bonaparte was in his early days a member, and the military education which he received, may, independently of any original bias of character, have laid the foundation of the greatness to which he attained, and of that mischievous application of unbridled power, through which he fell very nearly to the level whence he first had started...

Raised to empire at home, his ambition sought for itself fresh aliment; and foreign conquest was at once tempting and easy. Here the natural reflection will obtrude itself - what might not this extraordinary being have effected for the happiness of mankind, and for his own elevation of life and grandeur, had he used but a moiety of the force or perseverance in generous efforts to relieve the oppressed, which he wasted in rendering himself the monopolist and patron of oppression!

But he had left him no resources. He had extinguished liberty in France, and had no hold upon his subjects but their love of military glory. Conquest therefore succeeded to conquest, until nothing capable of subjugation was left to be subdued. Insensate, in the capacity in the victor produced among the enslaved nations impatience of their misery and a thirst for vengeance. Injustice undermined itself, and Bonaparte, with his unseasoned empire, fell together, the pageant of a day.

His military administration was marked by strict and impartial justice. He had the art, in an eminent degree, of inclining the emulation and gaining the affections of his troops. He was steady and faithful in his friendships, and not vindictive on occasions where it was in his power to be so with impunity.

Of the deceased Emperor's intellectual character, the ascendancy over men, all the French, and some of other nations besides the French who had an opportunity of approaching him, can bear witness. He seems to have possessed the talent, not merely of understanding, but of the power of persuasion. With regard to his religious sentiments, there were perhaps of the same standard as those of other Frenchmen starting into manhood at a time when infidel writings, less worthy of the name of popular mind that revealed religion was becoming a public laughing stock; and in a country where the pure Christian faith was perplexed with various errors, and was being assailed and scandalized and discredited by a general looseness of morals.

Upon the whole Bonaparte will go down to posterity as a man who, having more good at his disposal than any other potentate of any former age, had actually applied his immense means to the production of a greater share of mischief and misery to his fellow-creatures - one who, on the other hand, had done more to advance the cause of humanity, and to found that of every other state in Europe - but who carried on a series of aggressions against foreign states to divert the minds of his own subjects from the sense of their domestic slavery. Thus imposing on foreign nations a necessity for arming to shake off his yoke and affording to foreign despots a pretext for following his example...

Bringing home the bacon

From Mrs Halina Lubelska

Sir, In reply to Mr J. P. Geelan's question (June 29) on the repatriation of Danish bacon, I would inform him that hundreds and hundreds of rings of Polish Wjenska sausage and sticks of *kabanos* (thin, dry, smoked pork sausage) are, *volens nolens*, regularly repatriated in suitcases of visitors from England.

Yours faithfully,
HALINA LUBELSKA,
22 Home Park Road,
Wimbledon Park, SW19.

From Mr Martin Salter

Sir, I have a colleague from Geneva who asked me to send out for a Swiss roll, when he was last in London, to have with his mid-afternoon cup of tea.

He says you can't get it over there. I don't believe him. It's probably called *rouleau anglais*.

Yours truly,
MARTIN SALTER,
64 Church Crescent,
Muswell Hill, N10.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Magic of productivity may be ending

A rare animal emerged blinking in the Whitehall sunshine yesterday: the news of a fall in seasonally adjusted unemployment. The 7,400 drop, to 3,169,600, in the adult total in June was only the third fall since the beginning of 1980, and the biggest monthly reduction since August 1979.

The immediate reaction to that is not the "good news and I welcome it" of the Employment Secretary Mr Tom King. Rather, it is mild astonishment that the run of figures over the past six years has been quite so bad.

One month's fall does not change a trend, and the message from Department of Employment officials is that the trend is still upwards, by 10,000-15,000 a month. In the six months to June, the monthly rise averaged 11,000, slightly down from the 12,000 average rise of the previous six months.

As recently as April, when adult unemployment rose by 28,200, the mood was one of despair. The change between then and yesterday's fall looks dramatic, but owes most to the fact that erratic changes will occur when there are large monthly flows on and off the register, the monthly change being the difference between them.

Even so, there are grounds for cautious optimism that unemployment may be approaching a plateau. Help is on its way from the Budget job measures, notably the 100,000 extension of the Community Programme over the next 12 months. Extra Community Programme places accounted for 2,300 of the 7,700 rise in seasonally adjusted vacancies in June. The total for vacancies, 174,800, was the highest since March 1980.

It is possible to draw some comfort from the fact that the pool of people being attracted into the workforce, accounting for the fact that both employment and unemployment have been rising together, must be diminishing.

After the short sharp shock of 1982-84, productivity growth has now slowed markedly to a pace more consistent with long-term trends in Britain. The magical days when firms could generate a lot more output without taking on more workers may be over.

There was a temptation for the politicians yesterday, with the small matter of the Brecon and Radnor by-election to consider, to overplay the June unemployment figures. Mr King appears to have succumbed to the temptation. The danger in overplaying a small dent in a very large unemployment total is that it will have a disproportionate effect on the climate for pay bargaining.

Mr John Caff, the economic director of the Confederation of British Industry, struck an appropriate note in describing the figures as "a respite" and emphasizing the need both for a tight grip on labour costs and lower interest rates.

Even with a weekend Opec meeting approaching, the pound is rising to levels which suggest that the cautious downward path of interest rates can safely be resumed. The sterling index rose 0.3 to 81.6, its best close since early March last year. The pound gained a fifth of a cent to \$1.3158 and at DM3.9925 was within a whisker of the important DM4 level.

Hanson shines despite the electronics gloom

Three o'clock yesterday afternoon was the deadline for Hanson Trust's record-breaking £519 million rights issue - the last opportunity for taking up the rights. The numbers were not released last night but it looked as if embarrassment had been awarded, in connection with the £370.3 million ordinary share issue if not the £148.6 million convertible preference element. Feverish activity by Hanson's

broker, Hoare Govett, produced some solid buying of Hanson shares in the market. The price rose 4p to 186p - some 6p above the rights offering.

Lord Hanson, who now knows that the response was respectable, delayed a visit to the United States (to look at some acquisition possibilities) in order to be at the extraordinary shareholders meeting. Understandably, he expressed indignation that the call for cash had nearly fallen victim to the stream of disastrous statements from the electronics sector over the last fortnight, though it also ought to be said that the Hanson rights issue itself was a contributing factor in the market's recent malaise.

"Our own conditions remain buoyant", he told the meeting, "and Hanson Trust's growth will continue into the future."

Lord Hanson made clear that the group's acquisition plans for the immediate future lay in the United States, not in Britain where the possibility of picking up a bargain was increasingly remote.

It is becoming more and more difficult to make an acquisition at the right price in Britain, though we haven't given up totally. In the United States it is easier to get an agreed deal at the right price. He said he would be "looking seriously at one or two prospects there over the next few weeks".

Oil primaries lose balance of power

Most Opec-watchers foresee the usual quota of thrills and spills at its meeting which starts today in Vienna. Much politicking is built into the encounters for friction not to rub off on the membership.

Yet seasoned analysts expect that this meeting may show rather less than usual indiscipline. There is a sense in which weak spot oil prices will oblige members to make common cause in misfortune, not least because of their almost total dependence on oil for revenues. Some analysts are optimistic enough to claim that prices of heavier grades of crude will be cut by no more than 50 cents a barrel.

Perhaps the feeling that dead hands of uncertainty are being removed from the international oil market accounts for the current good showing of BP and Shell in the stock market. Perhaps simple American buying of the British oil majors has also played a part. Perhaps the stock market has become more sophisticated, and is now discounting the normal "post Opec" share price bounce ahead of the meeting, rather than responding afterwards. None the less, and possibly for all these reasons, the present relative strength of both shares is quite striking. In the last month, BP has outperformed the market by 5 per cent, and Shell by no less than 9 per cent.

Yet the rationale for this good performance belongs in a wider context. A clear departure has been made from tradition and experience when world stock markets can boom while Opec stands in comparative disarray, and spot oil prices sag. It suggests that the balance of power has again swung, this time away from the primary producers.

Analysts certainly expect to see good second quarter figures from both BP and Shell, since downstream activities have held up well and product prices have been firm. Hence confirmation appears to exist at the micro level of a switch in relationships, this time between producer and refiner. On this basis, oil majors' share prices may be rising, because investors perceive that a whole new range of trading possibilities is opening up.

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Ship group rescue

Common Brothers, the shipping group which lost more than £20 million in the year to 1984, is being rescued by its bankers in a deal which converts most of its £25 million of debt into equity.

Common Brothers' shares were suspended at 32p last month, having plunged on fears that the company would follow Reardon Smith into liquidation. In November it reported that its drift ship, IRO Frigg, had been idle since the beginning of the year, and it made a surprise write-off of more than £17 million against the ship.

Common Brothers' 80 per cent holding in the IRO Frigg was bought in 1981 from Norex, a Bermudan company controlled by the family interests of Mr Kristian Siem, who is now Commons Brothers' chief executive. Norex has 54 per cent of Commons Brothers, and under the reconstruction will only slightly reduce its stake. It will join with bankers, including Hambros and Midland, in converting around 90 per cent of the enlarged capital.

The deal involves Commons Brothers abandoning its product carrier and bulk shipping

New partners to strengthen Channel link consortium

By Jeremy Warner

Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French consortium proposing to build a £5 billion combined bridge and tunnel link across the Channel, is strengthening itself with the addition of up to five new partners. At the same time, one of the original members, Fairclough Construction, is dropping out.

Barclays Bank, Kleinwort Benson and up to three commercial companies, including a leading oil company, will be joining the consortium, which expects to spend about £140 million in making its submission to the British and French Governments by the deadline at the end of October. The consortium has also appointed Cazenove & Co., the stockbroker to assist in plans to raise equity capital for the project.

The latest moves come only days after the Channel Tunnel Group, the rival Anglo-French consortium for the project, presented its proposals.

The British and French Governments are expected to choose between the proposals towards the end of January.

Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of Eurotunnel and Trafalgar House, one of its leading partners, disclosed further details of Eurotunnel's proposals to investment institutions in the City yesterday.

He said that Coors & Lybrand are preparing a report on projected traffic flows and capital costs which would be ready by the end of next month, and that the indications were that the investment returns on the road link would be good.

Initial projections were that the motorway and rail link would be earning £1.25 billion by the year 2000, he said.

Negotiations have been opened with British Rail and SNCF, the French railway network, to try to improve on the terms they are offering for use of a separate rail tunnel that Eurotunnel plans to build alongside the road link.

Sir Nigel said that the present terms would not offer an adequate return on the venture and that Eurotunnel might have to proceed with the motorway link alone. The road link is expected to cost £3.5 billion and the rail tunnel more than £1 billion.

The design work on the venture would be completed

within a year of getting the go-ahead at a cost of £50 million, Sir Nigel said and the road link would be up and running five years after that. He considered that the main public flotation to finance the link would take place in the early 1990s though the consortium expected to raise a significant amount of equity capital from the City before then.

The cost of the twin bore rail tunnel option proposed by Channel Tunnel Group has been estimated at £2 billion.

The Eurotunnel partners include British Steel, British Shipbuilders and John Howard and from France, Société Générale, Banque Paribas, GTM Entrepose, Alsthom and Chantiers de L'Antique.

Home cash doubled by Barclays

By Richard Thomson

Barclays Bank is doubling the amount of money it aims to lend on mortgages as part of a package of measures to increase its presence in the home loan market.

Starting yesterday Barclays has boosted its quota available for home loans from £50 million to £100 million per month. This means it intends to increase its mortgage lending over the next year by more than £1 billion, compared with £2.5 billion lent in the five years since it entered the home loans market.

The move should help to ease the pressure on building societies which are having trouble finding sufficient funds to meet current high mortgage demand.

At the same time Barclays is dropping the restrictions placed on those who can apply for its mortgages. Previously it considered only customers who had held a Barclays cheque account for at least six months. Now anyone may apply, whether or not they bank at Barclays.

It has abolished higher interest rates charged on larger loans. Barclays is raising its basic mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent to 13.5 per cent, but the new rate will apply to all loans.

Previously, people borrowing between £15,000 and £30,000 were charged 0.5 per cent extra, and those borrowing between £30,000 and £100,000 paid one percentage point above the basic rate.

However, despite the rate increase Barclays' new mortgage rate is lower than most building society rates, particularly for larger loans.

The higher quota available for mortgage lending will remain in force until the end of next year and will be backed by an advertising campaign promoting Barclays mortgages.

Auditors seek ways to limit liability

By Ian Griffiths

The accountancy profession is actively seeking ways in which the liability of auditors could be limited following a dramatic increase in lawsuits against accountants and soaring indemnity insurance costs.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has already stressed the seriousness of the problem to Department of Trade officials and is now consulting the large accountancy practices on how liability could be best limited.

The large firms have taken the brunt of the rise in negligence litigation and the big eight firms are already conducting their own review.

The main options are for auditing firms to become incorporated and granted limited liability status, for the extent of the auditor's liability to be limited by law - perhaps by a multiple of the audit fee - or for limitation to be agreed through the terms of the contract between auditor and client.

Any move to restrict the auditor's liability would inevitably lead to a change in the law.

MP attacks Grenfell role in Bell battle

By Cliff Feltham

The role of the merchant bank, Morgan Grenfell, in the £300 million battle for Arthur Bell was again brought into focus last night when it admitted it may have made a mistake in continuing to maintain contact with the whisky group long after it had ceased to act as official advisor.

Morgan Grenfell, which is acting for the bidders, Guinness, has been given approval to carry on by the Takeover Panel despite protests by Arthur Bell for whom it acted until February 1983.

The merchant bank has maintained there has been no business relationship since then. But yesterday Mr Bill Walker, MP for North Tayside, and a supporter of Bell's campaign for independence, said he had seen correspondence from the bank last December suggesting likely takeover targets, and offering advice on corporate planning.

Mr Walker believes the Takeover Panel should not have allowed Morgan to continue to act for Guinness. He said: "I have seen a letter in which the bank lists seven companies as suitable takeover targets."

To present these suggestions and offer advice on corporate strategy they must have had access to highly sensitive material. The Takeover Panel



Bill Walker, supporter of Bell's campaign

has seen this evidence and still allowed Morgan to act for Guinness. I am appalled."

Mr Graham Walsh, head of Morgan Grenfell's corporate finance division, yesterday stressed that the bank had not had access to any confidential information. He said: "Since we parted company in 1983 we have been endeavouring to keep contact with them in the hope that they might want to use us again. We do not take being fired lightly. But perhaps on reflection it may have been a mistake to have carried on this relationship with them."

A spokesman for the Takeover Panel said they had examined all the relevant correspondence and had found that there was no conflict of interest on the part of Morgan Grenfell.

Syndicate names issue writ

By Alison Eadie

A total of 172 Lloyd's names on syndicate 895, including Mr Mark Cox and Miss Virginia Wade, the tennis players, issued a writ yesterday against the Lloyd's managing agent, Spicer & White, which is owned by Willis Faber.

The writ alleges negligence and breach of duty to names because of gross overwriting of the permitted levels of insurance business.

In 1982 the permitted capacity of the syndicate was £5 million, but £21 million worth of business was written. In 1981 capacity was £4.4 million and business written was £16.9 million, and in 1980 capacity was £3.1 million and business written was £13.1 million. The syndicate's underwriting losses for the three years total £15.8 million of which nearly £10 million is attributed by the names on a pro rata basis to overwriting.

The names issuing the writ rejected a loan offer made to them this week by Spicer & White, and backed by Willis Faber, on the grounds that it offered no compensation and merely gave a breathing space in which to meet losses.

Spicer & White has since written to names asking them to meet their losses by the end of the month.

IN BRIEF

Pound hits \$1.3185

The pound had another good day yesterday, in spite of the Opec ministerial meeting, which starts today. The sterling index gained 0.3 to 81.6, its highest closing level since March last year. Against the dollar, the pound rose almost a fifth of a cent to \$1.3158, after trading at \$1.3185. The pound also came close to breaking through the four mark level, closing at 3.9924.

The mood in the money markets was cautious in the light of the Opec meeting and next Tuesday's money supply figures. Rates were barely changed. However, some dealers think that a half-point base rate cut is possible next week, particularly if the money supply figures are at the lower end of market expectations.

Whisky rights

Macallan-Glenlivet, the malt whisky distiller, is to raise £5.8 million through a rights issue of 6.25 per cent convertible, unsecured loan stock on the basis of £1 nominal of the new stock for each ordinary share held. *Tempus, page 17*

The Tesco director who received a golden handshake was Mr Donald Harris, not Harrison, as reported yesterday.

Dividend rises

Greene King is to pay a final dividend of 3.3p, making a total for the year to April 28 of 4.67p (+4.33p). Pre-tax profits rose from £8.7 million to £9.65 million. *Tempus, page 17*

Hotels bought

Ladbroke Hotels, Britain's second largest hotel chain, has paid \$13 million (\$9.9 million) for the Texas-based Rodeway Inns franchise chain of 138 hotels, to bring Ladbroke into the US for the first time. Half the cash payment is deferred over three years without interest, but there will be a payout by Ladbroke of 21.5 per cent of profits from the existing business for five years.

Marlow's buy

Phoenix Timber has sold its building subsidiary Redlake (Southern) to Marlow & Co for £600,000.

Chairmen and Chief Executives are These are some of theirs-

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PRIMARY GILT DEALING
COMMERCIAL BANKING
OIL EXPLORATION
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT
ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS

INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING
NATIONALISED INDUSTRY
CONSUMER PRODUCTS
INDUSTRIAL CONGLOMERATE
MULTIPLE RETAILING
MICRO COMPUTERS

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B&C pays £62m for minorities

By Our City Staff

British and Commonwealth Shipping, the diversified aviation and financial services group, is mopping up minority stakes in four of its businesses for a total of £62.7 million.

The move was triggered by the retirement of Mr Alan Bristow, the chairman of Bristol Helicopters, one of its main subsidiaries. As a result B & C decided to acquire the outstanding 17.9 per cent stake owned by Mr Bristow and Eagle Star Insurance.

The other deals involve buying 6 per cent of Air Holdings and 9.2 per cent of British Air Transport, both held by Eagle Star, and 24 per cent of St Mary Axe Holdings which holds key stakes in Exco and Telerate.

B & C is paying for the deals through a mixture of £23.2 million cash and shares.

The final accounts from Bristol Oil and Minerals will show a loss of £3.8 million for 1984 instead of the profit of £3.2 million that the company announced in its preliminary statement in May. Extra write-offs of almost £7 million have been made, partly to comply with the requirements of the auditors.

Touche Ross, the international firm of accountants, has been appointed by the Department of Energy to act as accountancy advisers on the proposed privatisation of British Gas.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| FT Ind Ord | 951.9 (+9.6) |
| FT-Aut Share | 602.13 (+3.6) |
| FT Govt Securities | 82.07 (+0.04) |
| FT-SE 100 | 1249.1 (+9.8) |
| Bargains | 19,469 |
| Dataseam USM | 97.4 (-0.49) |
| New York | closed |
| Dow Jones | 1099 + 10 |
| Tokyo | 12,969.59 (+45.29) |
| Nikkei Dow | 1574.37 (-23.79) |
| Hong Kong | 219.0 (+0.9) |
| Amsterdam | 874.7 (+4.6) |
| Sydney: AO | 1475.0 (+12.6) |
| Frankfurt | 348.59 (+15.68) |
| Commerzbank | 221.5 (-2.0) |
| Brussels | 385.10 (-0.10) |
| General | |
| Paris: CAC | |
| Zurich: | |
| SIX General | |

GOLD

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| London fixing: | |
| am \$310.70pm \$310.55 | |
| close \$310.50-\$311.00 | |
| New York Wednesday | |
| Comex \$310.25 | |

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| RISES: | |
| Grand Cent Inv Hldgs | 15p + 2p |
| Buckley's Brew | 83p + 5p |
| J.E. England | 46p + 5p |
| Quotson Sys | 92p + 10p |
| Quest Automation | 33p + 9p |
| MTD (Mangula) | 11p + 1p |
| Albert Fisher | 109p + 7p |
| Milbury | 88p + 2p |
| Debenhams | 36p + 2p |
| Burton Grp | 46p + 2p |
| Five Oaks | 34p + 2p |
| John Brown | 36p + 2p |
| Millets | 165p + 10p |
| Sutcliffe Spkman | 34p + 2p |

FALLS:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Pengkalen | 300p - 50p |
| Bristol Chan | 4p - 1p |
| Vesper | 180p - 20p |
| Arlen Elect | 53p - 5p |
| China 5 per cent (Boxer) | 811 - 21 |
| Nash Ind | 28p - 2p |
| Geers Gross | 60p - 5p |
| Monument Oil & Gas | 13p - 1p |
| BICC | 193p - 12p |
| Ericsson "B" | 222p - 22p |

CURRENCIES

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| London: | |
| £: \$1.3158 (+0.0018) | |
| £: DM 3.9924 (+0.0090) | |
| £: SwF 3.3484 (+0.0164) | |
| £: FF 12.1576 (+0.0373) | |
| £: Yen 326.24 (+0.63) | |
| £ index: 81.6 (+0.03) | |
| New York (Wednesday): | |
| £: \$1.3145 | |
| £: DM 3.9332 (+0.0) | |
| £ index: 143.7 | |
| ECU £0.564220 | |
| SDR £0.767196 | |

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| London: | |
| Bank Base: 12 1/2% | |
| 3-month Interbank 12% - 12 1/2% | |
| 3-month eligible bills 12 - 11 1/2% | |
| buying rate | |
| US\$ (Wednesday) | |
| Prime Rate 9.5% | |
| Federal Funds 8 1/2% | |
| 3-month Treasury Bills 7.02% | |
| (7.00%) | |
| Long bond 107 1/2 (107 1/4) | |

TEMPUS

Predatory brewers line up targets

The hills are alive with the sound of brewers taking each other over. And the music comes with the cash.

Ever since Scottish & Newcastle approached Matthew Brown, the vogue attractions of taking out regional brewers have become compulsive. The outcome of the S & N bid will not be known until the autumn, when the Monopolies Commission delivers its verdict on the proposed deal, but for predators it is now open season.

More startling, in a sense, is the amount of money which predators are willing to offer for their quarry. Boddingtons' Brewery paid an exit multiple of about 30 for Higsons Brewery, a sky-high rating in view of the Higsons' track record.

The £42 million paid by Mansfield for North Country looked relatively over-generous to outsiders. Yesterday, in a small but highly significant move, Greenall Whitley snatched up just under £2 million for the West Midlands Breweries. P. Simkins, Simkins owns 15 pubs. Greenall is thus prepared to pay about £130,000 a pub.

Almost inevitably, such background factors find sharp focus with Greene King, which yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £9.6 million, up nearly 10 per cent on last year. The shares were unchanged at 160p. Greene King owns about 800 pubs. Valuing them on the Greenall yardstick means that the whole brewer could be worth just over £100 million. This figure compares with last night's market worth of some £66 million. In other words, the shares might be worth an extra pound each if bid possibilities moved beyond market tittle-tattle.

The group was adamant last night that it would fight virtually to the death to remain independent. Such a noble gesture might well be required in due course. As analysts were quick to point out, the board can only muster around a quarter of the equity, which is hardly enough to block an unwelcome approach.

Greene King has a well-established beer, Abbot Ale, and is busy spending heavily on new plant and pubs (£184.85; £6.7 million) as well as diversifying. But the fullness of time may yet reveal that these tactics were deployed too late to stave off an approach.

Macallan-Glenlivet

While much of the City's attention yesterday was focused on the outcome of Lord Hanson's blockbusting £519 million rights issue, Macallan-Glenlivet slipped in a £5.8 million cash call.

The rights issue has been forced on the company by its own success. Its malt whisky brand, The Macallan, has shot to number four in the best-selling chart but the cost of establishing its reputation has taken its toll on cash flow. Promotional and advertising expenditure has been heavy and Macallan-Glenlivet is now incurring the hefty costs of financing the stocks laid down for future consumption.

The inevitable result has been soaring borrowings,

which now stand at £5.8 million. The cost of servicing that debt would be £600,000 this year. Hence the company is offering £1 of convertible loan stock at 6.25 per cent for every ordinary share held.

Bank borrowings will be removed from the balance sheet, the interest bill will be cut to £225,000 in a full year and shareholders are offered a more attractive yield than if the rights issue had been in terms of ordinary shares.

The company is forecasting a drop in profits this year to £550,000, down from £760,000, reflecting the interest burden and the drabness of the new fillings business for the blended whisky industry. The shares were unchanged on the news at 330p and the current £1.25 suggests that Macallan-Glenlivet is very much a stock for the long term.

Gilts

Gilts eased ½ point yesterday in trading conditions best described as soporific. Without even a Test match to divert them, traders indulged in traditional forms of frivolity, like filling in football pools coupons and playing "spoof".

Yet the somnolent tone contrasts sharply with some of the virulent comments emerging from gilt analysts' bolt holes about the Government's conduct of monetary policy. Ahead of next week's £M3 figures, a note of real bitterness is creeping into the debate, judging by the circulars.

Mr John Wilmut, for example, at Pender & Boyle, reckons that the market is likely to remain uncertain and anxious, probably failing to offer profitable short-term trading opportunities. At Sprague & Vickers, the gilt analyst, Mr Richard Holt, picks up a comment made by the Bank of England in the *Quarterly Bulletin*.

The Bank, in the view of Mr Holt, has two points to make, notably that the recent growth in £M3 has probably understated the degree of monetary tightness and that underlying inflation may be accelerating. Mr Holt notes crisply that these two views are clearly inconsistent with each other.

Mr Stephen Lewis, at Phillips & Drew, is even more outspoken. The market, suspicion, he writes, is that the downgrading of the broad monetary target owes as much to convenience as to analytical concern. Do the authorities have a monetary policy at all, he queries?

The Chancellor has sought to divert attention to MO wide monetary base measures as a target of policy. And MO has consistently remained within the official target range. Yet, according to Mr Lewis, Britain does not possess, in any meaningful sense of the word, a monetary base.

This is because the British authorities do not impose a fractional reserve requirement on the commercial banks, as the authorities do, in say West Germany or the USA. Hence MO bears no relation whatsoever to any other monetary aggregate. It is really just a de luxe version of notes and coin. He estimates that MO is doomed to enjoy a credibility gap in financial markets.

Norman Aeroplane ready for take-off

By Alison Eadie

Norman Aeroplane Company starts production of light aircraft in Wales this month, backed by £2.3 million of finance from the Welsh Development Agency and City institutions.

Although the British light aircraft industry has been virtually extinct for 20 years because of American dominance, the company's founder, Mr Desmond Norman, believes that "There was never a better time for a UK company to launch into general aviation aircraft."

The strong dollar and drop in volume of American production, which has led to declining economies of scale there, have caused the price of American aircraft to double in

the past few years. More than 75 per cent of American production is sold to the home market.

Norman Aeroplane Company intends to sell its agricultural Fieldmaster and general purpose Freelance aircraft all over the world. It "conservatively" projects sales of six aircraft in 1987 rising to 34 in 1988 and 42 in 1989. Pre-tax profit is projected at £632,000 in 1988 rising to £1.04 million in 1989.

Mr Norman was a cofounder of Britten-Norman, which developed and built the Islander. More than 1,000 Islanders have been built and the aircraft ranks as Britain's most commercially successful post-war civil airliner, along with the Viscount.

Boots to build on its successes in France

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Boots, the high street retailer, is planning expansion of Sephora, its French chain of cosmetics and perfumes shops, which is considered the basis for possible entry into other European markets.

There are so far 13 shops in France and five of the earliest established, in Paris, are already in a trading profit. Others, including outlets in key provincial cities, are also close to getting into the black.

Another nine outlets, all under the Sephora banner, are planned to open during this financial year and the eventual aim is for a chain of 30.

Boots could not translate its chemist and consumer products mix to France because of regulations for pharmacies, which have to be separate

operations. There are similar regulations in many other countries, affecting those in Europe. The Sephora shops exploit for the first time shops in a middle ground between supermarket volume sales of cosmetics and the up-market outlets for expensive perfumes and toiletries.

Mr Terry Steel, a Boots director, said: "It looks as if the French operation will be bringing us a profits flow within two years."

Boots is still expanding its shops-within-shops concept to its bigger British stores. This year the number of cookshops - selling kitchenware - is expected to rise from 148 to about 192, its sound and vision products sections will go from 14 to about 50.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Hanson Trust shares rise on rights hope

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

The deadening weight of Hanson Trust's record £519 million rights issue was lifted from the market yesterday.

The cash call, which once looked destined to be an embarrassing flop, has after all gone moderately well with informed guesses indicating that only 20 per cent of the shares on offer - about 40 million - had been left with the underwriters. The preference shares offer,

what to do with the large lump of unwanted shares. They could follow English China Clays example on Tuesday and attempt to place the rights rump with institutions. The strengthening Hanson share price suggests that they could be tempted to take such a course of action rather than leave the stock with the underwriters, traditionally weak holders and, therefore, a drag on the share price.

After Wednesday's electrical distress, equities achieved a more settled appearance yesterday with the FT share index closing at 951.9 points, up 9.6 points. The 100 strong FT-SE share index finished 9.8 points up at 1,249.1 points.

Alongside the strong pound, Government stocks had a quiet day with gains of up to 1½p.

Electricals, after their trials and tribulations, managed a modest, often technical rally. STC, the prime cause of the latest power cut in the sector, fell at one time to 100p. The shares then struggled to 110p - down 4p on the day.

Thorn EMU, another major casualty, gained 15p to 344p. Plessey, on growing talk that the shares have been oversold and are now looking decidedly cheap on trading grounds, rallied 6p to 124p.

Racal Electronics found the going easier, but could only manage a 3p closing gain. General Electric Company still displaying no visible sign of a share buying spree, was unchanged at 158p.

The vital question now facing Rothschild and Hoare Govett is

however, may not have been so successful.

An 80 per cent take up is rarely a cause for celebration. But with the market so fragile, Hanson's advisers, H. M. Rothchild, the merchant banker, and Hoare Govett, the broker, will no doubt take the view that the mammoth exercise has been accomplished successfully.

Anticipating the 80 per cent take up, Hanson shares rose to 189p in late trading. They started the day at 182p - against a 185p rights price - and moved to 186p after Lord Hanson, the chairman, had spoken at a shareholders' meeting.

The vital question now facing Rothschild and Hoare Govett is

Buckley's Brewery, the Welsh group, was the fastest moving share on the drinks pitch. It jumped 5p to 63p on the suggestion that Mr Nazmu Virani, chairman of the Belha-

fell 12p to a new trading low of 193p for this year.

Ericsson, the Swedish electricals group, was also in the doldrums, the London-quoted "B" shares falling £2 ¼ to £22 ½

Shares of Good Relations, the public relations group, are at 195p undervalued, believes Mr Malcolm Kitchen, analyst at Hoare Govett, the broker. He expects the present year's profits to be £1.950 million, which puts them on a prospective p/e of 14.3. GR has acquired an 11.2 per cent shareholding in the over-the-counter traded public relations group, Catalyst Communications.

ven Brewery Group, has established a significant shareholding.

Greenall Whitley, paying £1.9 million for a 15-pub West Midlands brewery, was unchanged at 161p. Greene King, with profits up from £8.756 million to £9.654 million was another unchanged brewery - at 160p.

While most electricals shares looked pennies better yesterday, BICC, the cabling and contracting group, was hurt by talk of a profits forecast being cut by a leading stockbroker. The shares

Large blocks of shares were said to be on offer. The company revealed an 11 per cent drop in annual profits for 1984 and few investors have hopes of an improvement in the present climate for the industry.

Stores were buoyant. Suggestions that Burton Group was about to increase its contested offer for Debenhams swirled around. Debenhams shares jumped 27p at one time but settled for a 24p gain at 383p. Burton rose 22p to 468p, closing at 462p.

Today Debenhams will hold

Traded option highlights

Trading options business fell flat again, the upturn in the main market cutting out some of the investment hedging and speculation which has centred on options recently. Total trades numbered 5,243 contracts, with no one series breaking through the 1,000 mark.

Racal Electronics was top scorer with 862 contracts

traded, and newsworthy Hanson Trust totalled 563. BT trades reached 578, while the dollar/sterling option saw 498 contracts change hands. Further strong moves for the pound on foreign exchange markets prompted the interest in the latter option.

Prices of traded options showed little significant movement.

its yearly shareholders meeting. There are expectations in some quarters that a decision will be announced today whether the proposed £500 million offer will go before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The Office of Fair Trade sent its recommendation to the Department of Trade yesterday.

Habitat Mothercare, deeply involved in the Burton bid, rose 16p to 380p. Harris Queensway, which has trading links with Debenhams and has a shareholding just below the 5 per cent mark, gained 4p to 234p.

Ward White Group confirmed expectations that it had moved in on Maynards, the sweet manufacturing and toy retailing group which last year fought off a bid from former supermarket entrepreneur Mr Lew Carlier. Through a subsidiary called Tenchpalm WWG is sitting on 12.4 per cent of Maynards' capital.

Howard Machinery, the agricultural machine makers, stopped dealings in their shares yesterday - at a price of 7p - "pending an announcement".

Whatever the company has to say is not expected to be good news for shareholders. Howard has been in trouble for months, and the chairman Mr Charles Allsop gave a warning at last month's annual meeting that sales are still falling.

F H Tomkins acquired a 20.7 per cent stake in Howard when Tomkins bought Hayters, another machinery group, last year. The only glimmer of hope

for Howard now seems to be the chance that Tomkins can see something worth rescuing. But City observers believe Tomkins is more likely to be ready to write off its involvement. Tomkins shares yesterday slipped 1p to 185p.

TSL Thermal Syndicate, the high technology raw materials supplier, rose 15p to 278p, making a two-day gain of 33p. Half-year figures are due this

month and are expected to show TSL well on the way to a full-year profit of £2.5 million to £3 million. That means a big recovery for the company in just two years.

Blue Circle Industries gained 3p to 513p. The company is raising £114.5 million through a dollar issue note facility.

Other FT 30 constituents to move ahead included Guest Keen and Nettlefolds, up 7p at 235p; BTR 7p better at 350p and Lucas Industries, 5p up at 310p.

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Debenhams shareholders: questions Mr Thornton should answer today.

1. How can you claim a 5.7% sales increase is "significant progress"?
2. Where is the growth in profits attributable to shareholders which were lower last year than in the previous year?
3. Why is the return on sales in the 67 Debenhams stores so inadequate?
4. With derisory retailing profits how can you justify plans to increase selling space by more than 20%?
5. With a third of the year gone, and only a tenth of profit earned, how can you justify your ambitious profit forecast?
6. When will shareholders see the much talked of property revaluation?

We believe that the answers to these questions will expose the hollow ring of future promises. The message is clear. Back Burton.

Debenhams promises-Burton delivers.

The Burton Group

habitat/mothercare

Challenge for fallen electronics stars

Sir Ernest Harrison:
sudden setback

Sir Ernest Harrison:
sudden setback



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Birmingham and Fluz. L. R. Greenwood, P. L. 5, 2 Blackwell, James Allens C.
London and Flint. A. A. Bloodworth, Que.
Almeida C. York and below. T. M. Brown
Almeida C. Oldham and Trin. M.
Brook, Rugby and Down. N. C. Cameron
Flint Rd 4 C. Cambridges and below. R. P.

[illegible]

Corrections
The name of A D N J de Greef Harrow and Trinity Hall, who wrongly spent in the Computer Science Tripos class 2 division 1 list, is A D N J de Greef.
In the Historical Tripos part 1 division 1, J E Hinder attended the College, Swindon and Queen's.
More results tomorrow.

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Frogmore Estates: Mr Kenneth Oliver has become chairman following the resignation of Mr Dennis Cope, who remains a non-executive director.

Contracts have been exchanged for the purchase of Ian Walker Furniture, which carries on the business of manufacturing upholstered furniture suites. The initial consideration is £500,000. The contract provides for a deferred consideration, based on profits.

Sir Kenneth Corfield:
right combination

South and New H: D J Polls, Mayesbrook
Comp 9, Dapoham and Mapd. S J Price,
Jolihul S and Pemb A T Pursall,
Tellenhah C, Woternampden and Christ's
J C Gussell, Fennell C, Gussell and J. M. M


Greene, King & Sons, plc
Westgate Brewery, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QT

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| | |
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| Brown C 10p Ord (7/9) | 85 |
| Clayton Bros 3/4p Ord (10/24) | 153 |
| Coltford Group 1/2p Ord (11/2) | 107-1 |
| Crainbrook Elect 3/4p Ord (7/9) | 80 |
| Dairies Int 5/4p Ord (8/24) | 85 |
| First Security 1/2p Ord (10/2) | 115 |
| Giffen Property 1/2p 5p Ord (7/8) | 73-3 |
| Heaven Tree 3/4p Ord (2) | 600 |
| Hol & Lums 1/2p Ord (10/2) | 81-0 |
| Holmes & Marston 1/2p Ord (3000) | 350-5 |
| IBM Corp 1/4p | 133-3 |
| Martin County Pwr 50p Ord (10/2) | 95 |
| Micro Space 1/2p Ord (11/20) | 163 |
| Pacer Systems 500p 1/2p Com 1/4 (7/9) | 105 |
| Park 2 View 1/2p Ord (11/1) | 30 |
| Petropine 1/2p Ord (9/9) | 119-2 |
| Preston-Hill Holdings 3/4p Ord (10/2) | 71 |
| Prominent Hills 1/2p Ord (11/24) | 120-4 |
| Vanstein (Christmas) 3/4p Ord (11/5) | 104-3 |
| Surge 1/2p Ord (11/2) | 100-2 |
| Walden 3/4p Ord (11/2) | 33-2 |
| Wend 3/4p Ord (9/2) | 93-1 |

Values shown in parentheses = Unlisted Securities.
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| Continental Trust | 12 1/4% |
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RACING: CORONATION STAKES WINNER FACES FORMIDABLE TASK IN NEWMARKET'S CHILD STAKES

Al Bahathri the top attraction among star-studded cast

By Michael Seely

Tony Murray and Al Bahabhi will attempt to continue their triumphant march forward together in the Child Stakes at Newmarket next Wednesday. Hamdan Al Maktoum's gallant filly, who made her last handstand on the big, narrow deflated Oh So Sharp in the 00 Guineas with her decisive victories in the Irish equivalent and the Kentucky Oaks, the 1000 Guineas Ascot, will face the stiffest test of her career in the group three on the only course. "After that, we'll probably go for the Nassau Stakes at Goodwood," Tony Jones, her trainer, said yesterday.

Of her older opponents, Al Bahabhi is set to meet Free Guest and Kates at weight for age, but is

and Green Desert, who was considered to be in a lot of the race when second to the subsequent Coventry Stakes winner, Sure Blade, at Newmarket.

Water Swinburn, Stuart's stable jockey, will resume riding when Diaghlyphard takes on Telemorpher and Princess Pat in tomorrow's Pacemaker International Stakes at Newmarket. After a two-week suspension for reckless riding on Lord Grumby at Epsom and another 10 days after breaking his wrist at Newbury, the 10-year-old jockey is hungry for action. "I rode Diaghlyphard this morning and he's in tremendous shape. The stable is firing on all four cylinders and I

can run so well on her first appearance of the season when she went to Dafunyna in the Cork and Werry Stakes at Ascot.

Well, Colona, only a short head behind the winner at Newmarket, she enjoyed a 31lb pull in the weights, as de Ever Genial and Fatale Flame, the latter Colona's trainer, the last of the three will stay to represent the Tundra Group.

Colona's first start was a runaway in May. This marvellously competitive race gives a foretaste of the feast of high-class racing that will be in the offing for the next few days.

This historic fixture always marks the watershed of the season. Not only will the top races for three-year-olds and older horses be run, but the season's first big prize for 1986 will start to take shape as the top stables show up potential classic candidates in the two-year-old races.

The 10-year staples of Henry Cecil's Middle Park will be followed strongly represented. Cecil's jockeys include his impressive King of the Hurdle VIII Stakes winner, unfranced, who is sure to start a short-price favourite for Tuesday's 1000 Guineas.

Four two-year-old candidates for the champion trainer are Faustus, Bernard van Cutsem Stakes), yuvuvv (Chesfield Stakes) Gleebe (Falmouth Stakes) and Water of the Nile, who will be defeated in the unbeaten record in Wednesday's

Swindlers said.

Apart from looking forward to riding Bella Colona and Green Emerald, Swindlers faces the prospect of a tussle between Dafunyna and Prime Dotside against Never So Bold in Thursday's William Hill Fill Cup. The same afternoon, the last of the three will be the previously unraced Northern Dancer colts, Mashor Dancer or Jarzer, against the equally well thought of Gleebe Place in the Falmouth Stakes.

Mark Kemm, chief of the course at Sandown, reports good to firm going for the important two-day meeting which starts this afternoon.

"The going would have been soft on Tuesday but it has dried out," he provides, that the sun has not dried it out too much," he said yesterday. "We can't water as thunderstorms are forecast." Rainbow Quest remains favourite at 11-1 with the sponsors of the tomorrow's Coral-Eclipse. Pebbles and Commence Run are both on offer at 3-1.

Looking further ahead, Batsford was the only horse seriously backed in the 1000 Guineas at the start of yesterday. The odds of Dick Hern's three-year-old were cut from 20-1 to 16-1 with the sponsors. Hern said: "Batsford is a possibility for Goodwood but we'll have to see how he goes at Haydock Park on Saturday."

Flinkered first time

3.15 METROPOLE HANDICAP (E3,811:1m 4f) (2)

| | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 9-0350 | KRY RAYAL (2) | 0 Calvert 4-4-7 | 0 Nicholas |
| 9-3185 | JOY RAYAL (2) | 0 Calvert 4-4-7 | 0 Corcoran 2 |
| 1984: Joy RAYAL 1-0 B Raymond (1-3 189) B Hobbs 3 men | | | |
| 15-4 on 51-Flaps, 11-4 Key Rays. | | | |

| R SELLING | | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------|
| 3.45 | METROPOLIS | CLUB | LUTON | MAIDEN |
| STAKES (2-y or £7,750-£6(11)) | | | | |
| 4 | 00 BOLD ANWER (8) | 0 W Bentley 9-0 | 0 Murray 11 | |
| 4 | 00 BOLDERS LOOK (8) | 0 W Hartley 9-0 | 0 A Guise 9 | |
| 4 | 00 CAPRICORN BLUE F Fitzgerald 8-0 | 0 T New 10 | 0 | |
| 4 | 00 DARK PRIDE R RAYAL 8-0 | 0 T New 10 | 0 | |
| 4 | 00 EDGEWISE M McCormack 9-0 | 0 S Causton 10 | 0 | |

| | | | |
|-----|---|--|----|
| 9 | A | POLKSWOOD M Canardo S-D Condonan | 7 |
| 16 | B | FLEMINGTON G (F) W. Whelan S-B | 8 |
| 17 | C | HOCKEY RAN B M H Esterby S-D | 9 |
| 18 | D | OCEANO HOLDINGS J R Ellis S-B | 10 |
| 25 | E | RUCKY PRANCE J N Bradshaw S-D | 11 |
| 30 | F | SPRING WINDERS W Guest S-B | 12 |
| 3-4 | G | LADDA Lobbit S-D Tyes (4-7 Jan) J Dunlop S run | |
| 7-1 | H | Ortland Soldier, S-S Southen Luck, 7-2 Framington Court, S-Indian Lake, Golden, 1-4; others. | |

4:15 METROPOLIS CLUB LEICESTER MAIDEN
 1-Playez, 3.45
 4.45 The

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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |
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| | | | Hallingsburg, 14 Weller Dan, 18 others. | | |
| 10 | AM | 11-35 | TROLLEY DASH STAKES (2-y-c 2) 422-79 (10) | | |
| 11 | AM | 4-01 | LIVING SHARP S Monon 8-11 | Pat Lowne 9 | |
| 12 | AM | 6-01 | MOUNT DOMINION (8-11) / Bidding 8-11 | | |
| 13 | AM | 7-30 | AMBAAL (RF) H Thompson Jones 9-5 | A Murray 9 | |
| 14 | AM | 8-50 | ELMER'S 8-11 | C O'Grady 9 | |
| 15 | AM | 9-00 | ELEGANT MILITARY 8-11 | Furness 9 | |
| 16 | AM | 9-05 | FRY LOZD G M Moore 8-5 | A Crook 1 | |
| 17 | AM | 9-10 | GLENN 8-11 | Dierckx 9 | |
| 18 | AM | 9-15 | RAISEWOOD DELIGHT 8 Hamburg 8-5 | Crank 1 | |

1984: Vico Rocco 8-6 S Parks (9-7), R Hollinshead 15 ran
11-8 Mount Dominion, 2 Living Sharp, 6 Ambasi, 8 Rainbow Delight,
the other three unnamed.

| 9.5 GRANDWAYS CHECKOUT HANDICAP (\$1,481; 1m 29.15) | |
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Court of Appeal

Law Report July 5 1985

Family Division

Notice not nullified by failure to serve

Regina v. Greenwich London Borough Council, Ex parte Patel

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Sir John Megaw

[Judgment delivered July 2]

A failure to serve an enforcement notice in accordance with section 87(4) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 did not render the notice a nullity.

The Court of Appeal, in reserved judgments, dismissed an appeal by Mr. Nairwajee Maganbhai Patel from Mr. Justice Gidwell's decision on August 19, 1983 of his application for an order of prohibition prohibiting Greenwich London Borough Council from acting on a decision in a letter of September 27, 1982 to enter 56 Shrewsbury Lane, Woolwich, London, pursuant to an enforcement notice of April 10, 1980, Mr. Patel contended that the enforcement notice was a nullity because it had not been served on him.

Section 87 of the 1971 Act, prior to amendment by the Local Government and Planning (Amendment) Act 1981, provided: "(1) Where it appears to the local planning authority that there has been a breach of planning control... then, subject to any directions given by the secretary of state and to the following provisions of this section, the authority may serve a notice under this section... an enforcement notice requiring the breach to be remedied...".

"(4) An enforcement notice shall be served on the owner and on the occupier of the land to which it relates and on any other person having an interest in that land...".

Mr. Martin Collins, QC and Mr. Nicholas Lewington for Mr. Patel; Mr. Nicholas Nardache for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that 56 Shrewsbury Lane was a corner property adjoining 2 Foxcroft Lane, which was the site of a self-service retail business.

Mr. Patel bought 56 Shrewsbury Lane in 1976 as a long-term investment. At all material times it had been occupied by the United States with business interests in India and East Africa. He had never occupied No 56 but had allowed Mrs. Patel to use it for the purposes of her retail shop.

In June 1979 a shed was erected in the garden of 56 Shrewsbury Road by Mrs. Patel without planning permission and, it seemed, without Mr. Patel's knowledge.

In September 1979 Mrs. Patel applied for planning permission for the erection of single storey stone roofed building at the rear of 56 Shrewsbury Lane. Mrs. S. M. Patel was stated also to own 56 Shrewsbury Lane.

The application was refused. In January 1981 Mrs. Patel's appeal to the secretary of state was dismissed. The inspector's decision letter stated that the space remaining at the rear of No 56 would be "inadequate to provide a reasonable standard of amenity for the occupants of a family house".

On April 10, 1980 an enforcement notice had been served on Mrs. Patel as a person owning 56 Shrewsbury Lane requiring her to remove the single storey stone building adjoining the rear of 56 Shrewsbury Lane.

In section 87 of the 1971 Act, the notice required the building to be removed by August 21, 1980. There was no appeal against the enforcement notice but Mrs. Patel took no steps to remove the shed.

After Mrs. Patel had failed to comply with a notice under section 25 of the 1971 Act (power to require information of interests in land) the council took action under section 91 (execution and cost of works required by enforcement notice). A letter of September 27, 1982 in Mrs. Patel's stated that contractors would be entering her land in order to take the steps required by the enforcement notice to remove the shed.

At about this stage, Mr. Patel said that he first heard of the enforcement proceedings. Giving his "present address" as 56 Shrewsbury Lane he appointed his brother, Mr. M. Patel (Mrs. S. M. Patel's husband) to be his attorney.

Application was made for judicial review. The essence of the submissions was that the enforcement notice was a nullity because it was not served upon the applicant, Mr. N. M. Patel, and that therefore the council were not entitled to take action under section 91.

His Lordship considered the scheme for the enforcement of planning control in the 1971 Act and in particular sections 87, 88, 89, 91 and 243.

It was submitted, *inter alia*, for Mr. Patel, that it was a fundamental principle of English law that no man was to be deprived of his property without having an opportunity to be heard, that any departure from that principle rendered any decision or action based on such a decision a nullity, that accordingly the enforcement notice which was not served on Mr. Patel was a nullity and that the council should follow the *dicta* of the First Division of the Court of Session in *McDonald v. City of Edinburgh Council* (1984) 1 W.L.R. 579.

The general principle relied upon was not in doubt. It could be traced through *Cooper v. Wandsworth Board of Works* (1863) 14 C.B.R. 189 to *Ridge v. Baldwin* (1964) A.C. 413. See also *Attorney General v. Foreign Compensation Committee* (1969) A.C. 147.

In the light of the provisions of sections 88(1) (right of appeal to secretary of state) of enforcement notice not served as required by section 87(4), 88(4) (which empowered the secretary of state to disregard non-service if there had been no substantial prejudice) and 243(2) of the 1971 Act it seemed to be impossible to contend that a failure to serve an enforcement notice rendered the notice a nullity.

The general principle invoked for Mr. Patel had to yield to the will of Parliament.

In *McDonald's* case the district council were aware of the identity of the owner. It could be distinguished. If and in so far as that case was authority for the proposition that the failure to serve a notice in accordance with section 87(4) rendered the notice a nullity, his Lordship must with the utmost respect decline to follow it. The 1971 Act entrusted certain matters to the secretary of state to the exclusion of the courts. *Dary v. Northampton Borough Council* (1984) A.C. 262.

The 1971 Act stipulated that the secretary of state was to be the forum for deciding all challenges to the validity of an enforcement notice on any of the grounds contained in section 88(1) to (4) to (6). Section 243 (subject to subsection (2)) ousted the jurisdiction of the courts to determine such challenges.

The judge was right to reject Mr. Patel's application for judicial review.

SIR JOHN MEGAW, agreeing, said that the supervisory jurisdiction by way of judicial review was "inherently discretionary". *London & Chislehurst Gasworks Ltd. v. City of London* (1980) 1 W.L.R. 182, 190 C.D. The discretion fell to be exercised even if the act or

omission which gave rise to the judicial review was a breach of what was sometimes called a "mandatory" statutory provision.

There was no reason to suppose that any real prejudice had resulted to the applicant.

So far as the local authority was concerned there was no suggestion of any deliberate disregard of statutory requirements nor was there any reason to hold that they failed to show due diligence.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, also agreeing, said that while accepting the supreme authority of Parliament, he would hope and expect that the courts would be extremely reluctant to accept that a planning authority could ever be the sole judge of whether or not it was exercising its powers.

His Lordship was concerned when it appeared that a land owner might find that he had lost his right of appeal to the secretary of state before he knew that he had anything to appeal against and yet be denied any right to be heard by the courts.

If that were indeed the case, a situation could arise in which a local authority, in reliance upon an enforcement notice which should never have been issued, could demolish a building for which no planning permission was required or even one which had been built in accordance with an express permission.

His Lordship was quite satisfied that that was not the position. Solicitors: B. Dave & Co. Mr. A. C. Hill, Woolwich.

Citizen living abroad cannot adopt child

In re Adoption Application AA (1984)

Before Mr. Justice Sheldon

[Judgment delivered June 28]

A step-father domiciled in England but living abroad with his home in England could not adopt jointly with his wife her children as there could be no compliance with section 8 of the Children Act 1975.

Mr. Justice Sheldon held in the Family Division in a judgment delivered in open court after a hearing in chambers.

Section 8 of the 1975 Act provides: "(1) Where (a) the applicant, or one of the applicants, is a parent, step-parent or relative of the child... an adoption order shall not be made unless the child is at least 16 months old and at all times during the preceding 13 weeks has his home with the applicants or one of them."

"(2) Where subsection (1) does not apply, an adoption order shall not be made unless the child is at least 12 months old and at all times during the preceding 12 months has his home with the applicants or one of them."

"(3) An adoption order shall not be made unless the court is satisfied that sufficient opportunities to see the child with the applicants or one of them have been afforded to the child with both applicants together in the home environment."

Under the Adoption Act 1958 it had been possible for an adoption

to be made on the application of a person domiciled in England who was not ordinarily resident in Great Britain. An application could have been made if the child had been continuously in the care of the applicant for at least three months and the application required no additional residential qualifications save that in a joint application by spouses they had both lived together in Great Britain for a least one of those three months.

The Houghton committee report on the adoption of children recommended no change in "the requirements regarding domicile, residence or marital status". Instead of following that recommendation Parliament had deliberately and unintentionally made the position of applicants domiciled in England but resident abroad more difficult.

By section 10(2) of the Children Act 1975 an adoption order could not be made on the application of a married couple unless one of them was domiciled in a part of the United Kingdom.

Under section 9 of the 1975 Act the court had to be satisfied that there had been sufficient opportunities for the child with both applicants together in the home environment. It was clear that the local authority

for the purpose of the adoption proceedings must be a local authority in England or Wales.

An adoption order could not be made unless, when giving notice of the intention to adopt under section 18(1), the applicant had a home in (181), the applicant had been afforded to the local authority and opportunities had been afforded to the local authority to see the child with the applicants in the home environment (section 9).

It was a question of fact in any particular case whether the applicant had or had not a home in England within the meaning of the 1975 Act.

His Lordship had no doubt that an individual could have two homes but there must be some regular occupation even if intermittent and with some degree of permanency.

The step-father in his frank affidavit stated that his home was in Hong Kong and that the children regarded his daughter's home as a place to stay during visits and short holidays. Although the applicants had stayed there also occasionally his Lordship regarded that as a home in England within the meaning of the 1975 Act and the court had no jurisdiction to grant the adoption application.

Solicitors: McKenna & Co. Official Solicitor: Mr. E. M. Holdsworth, Chichester.

Tax fiddle plot destroys continuity of employment

Hyland v. J. H. Barker (North West) Ltd.

Before Mr. Justice Popplewell, Miss A. Boye and Mr. J. A. Scullion

[Judgment delivered June 28]

An employee who for four weeks in the last year of a 16-year period of employment was paid an illegal tax-free lodging allowance had not been continuously employed for the qualifying period of one year ending with the date of termination of his employment and an industrial tribunal had no jurisdiction to hear his claim of unfair dismissal.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal dismissed an appeal by Mr. Hyland from a decision of a Liverpool industrial tribunal in May 1984 that they had no jurisdiction to hear his complaint of unfair dismissal against his employers, J. H. Barker (North West) Ltd. He had appealed on the ground that the industrial tribunal had erred in law

in holding that the four-week period during which he received an illegal lodging allowance broke the continuity of his contract of employment.

Mr. John Hendy for the employee, Mr. John Hand for the employers.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said that the employee started work in September 1967 and was dismissed in May 1983. During four weeks from mid-May to mid-June 1982 he had entered into an arrangement to be paid a tax-free lodging allowance in addition to his wages. It was an illegal agreement as he was not entitled to claim that lodging allowance.

The industrial tribunal had found that the illegality tainted the whole of the contract and that in any event he had not been continuously legally employed for a period of not less than one year ending with the effective date of termination, within

the meaning of section 64 (1) (a) of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, as amended.

It was conceded that the industrial tribunal were wrong in finding that the whole contract was tainted by illegality. The question which arose on appeal was whether "continuously employed" meant "continuously legally employed".

It was argued that the agreement to pay lodging allowance was a collateral agreement and should be severed and set apart from the contract of employment. But the employers contended that since the employee's contract incorporated the terms of the working rule agreement of the National Joint Council for the Building Industry which provided for the payment of a lodging allowance in the appropriate circumstances, it was clear that the allowance was part of the conditions of employment and could not be severed from the claim for wages.

The appeal tribunal agreed with the employers' contention. It was also argued that special considerations should apply to employment contracts, and that the arrangement had occurred a month earlier and had terminated sooner than the qualifying period would have been achieved. But in *Taylor v. Ouseley* (1978) 1 C.R. 639 it was held that the general rules relating to illegality applied to employment law.

For the four weeks in which the lodging allowance was paid the contract of employment was illegal. It did not mean that before or after that period it was illegal. But that four-week period could not be relied on to establish continuity of employment. The appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Miss Geraldine Scullion, Manchester; Rowleys & Blicwits, Manchester.

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Hope of finding Air-India black box

By Richard Dowden

The "black box" flight recorder of the Air-India jumbo jet which crashed off Ireland 12 days ago may have been located.

The head of the team operating a submersible robot searching for wreckage said last night he was "fairly confident" that the recorder, which emits a signal, had been traced.

It is thought to be in 7,000 feet of water two miles from the robot and its mother ship, the Leon Thevenin. Mr Michael Bonds, of Cable and Wireless, which owns the robot, said last night that they were making their way towards the source of the signals.

● DELHI: Indian experts are convinced explosives caused the disaster (Richard Ford writes).

The team thinks they had been placed in a cargo container due to be off-loaded at Heathrow airport and which was below the first-class section and adjacent to the plane's electronic bay.

The investigators, led by Dr S. S. Sidhu, Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, believe the blast damaged the aircraft's electronic system, throwing it out of control.

Data analysis indicated that the sudden disappearance of the jumbo jet from radar screens at Shannon airport could only have resulted from an explosion.

Dr Sidhu and his team arrived back in India yesterday and are to submit their findings to the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. They believe that a recording at Shannon air control is of two explosions, followed by cries and screaming.

It is thought that in the confusion, the co-pilot accidentally switched on a transmitter, which conveyed the situation in the cockpit for 5.2 seconds. Air traffic controllers automatically made a recording.

Captain D. Bose, managing director of Air India, has already ruled out human error and mechanical failure as causes of the disaster. He said there was no doubt the jet disintegrated in mid-air and there was a distinct possibility that a bomb caused it to do so.

Falstaff is home after 400 years



Falstaff returns to his original home as Wendy MacPhee as Mistress Ford and Frank Jarvis as Falstaff rehearse for the Theatre Set-Up production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Bickling Hall, Norfolk yesterday.

Bickling was once owned by Sir John Falstaff who, according to local legend, was the model for Sir John Falstaff.

The play may have been written as part of the celebrations at the installation of George Carey, Shakespeare's patron, as Knight of the Garter in 1597.

This production contains a masque in which Carey is invested by Queen Elizabeth I and then becomes involved in the court entertainment celebrating the occasion.

The Theatre Set-Up specialises in re-creating the touring and private court performances of Shakespeare's own company.

Photograph by Harry Kerr

Scargill wins vote on job for life

Continued from page 1

only to voting members of the executive.

Mr Scargill argued yesterday that he had been under the reach of the Act even under the old rule book because the casting vote belonged to the chairman of an executive meeting, rather than to the president ex-officio.

He cited as evidence the old rule 26, which specified that the president and the secretary shall have no vote "but in the case of an equality of votes, the chairman or chairwoman shall have a casting vote".

Opponents of the change, however, who will make one final attempt today, almost certainly doomed to failure, to restore the casting vote, believe this is legally controversial and that Mr Scargill might have

been open to challenge had he failed to submit himself to periodic re-election under the old rules.

Among the other new rules which are already home and dry, unannounced in any significant form is one which indemnifies any union member "in respect of every act done by such a member whether in accordance with the rules or otherwise" if it is approved by the union's annual conference.

This is intended to prevent the kind of legal action which was brought by working miners during the year-long coal strike to make executive members personally accountable for the £200,000 fine imposed for contempt.

Another controversial rule approved was the new clause which obliges members to

pay levies raised by the union executive removing any need for a ballot.

Already in the rule-book, but still to be subjected to amendments today, are changes giving the executive a new power to call any individual area out on strike; one which would allow the executive to transfer blocks of membership from one area to another, and the sweeping new disciplinary rule 30 which provides for "any member who has done any act which includes an omission which may be detrimental to the interests of the union" to be brought before an internal disciplinary committee.

Mr Raymond Link, the Nottinghamshire general secretary, who led yesterday's conference walk-out, said the

new code was "totally abhorrent".

Mr Scargill strongly denied claims by the Nottinghamshire miners yesterday that the new rule-book interfered with area autonomy and said that its clause 17c, in fact, fully protected the independence of the individual areas.

Mr Raymond Link, general secretary of the Nottinghamshire NUM, last night explained he had pulled his delegation out on the rules changes issue because of the mandate from his members.

He said: "If we took part in the rules revisions discussion we were giving some sort of legitimacy to the whole proceedings and our members said that we could not do that."

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